# FREE THOUGHTS

ON

# QUACKS

AND THEIR

# MEDICINES,

Occaſioned by the Death of

## Dr. GOLDSMITH and Mr. SCAWEN;

OR,

A CANDID AND INGENUOUS INQUIRY into the Merits and Dangers imputed to ADVERTISED REMEDIES:---IN which, an inveſtigation of the nature and origin of their compoſition has been attempted: and the degree of confidence they deſerve, aſcertained. ---WHEREIN, alſo, have been occaſionally interſperſed ſome few animadverſions tending to defend MINERALS in general, and exculpate MERCURY and ANTIMONY in particular, from the ill-judged and ill-grounded aſperſions thrown againſt them; by proving the ſuperiority of the productions of the MINERAL, over thoſe of the VEGETABLE, Kingdoms.

*Dedicated to the Legiſlature in general, or, both Houſes of Parliament.*

*Intereſt Reïpublicæ, cogneſci malos.* CICERO.

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MDCCLXXVI.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

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# ERRATA.

Page 9, l. 2. conſaguine, read conſanguine; p. 15, l. 5. abilites, abilities; p. 29, l. 13. ſpatters, ſpatter; ibid. l. 26. would, would; p. 42. l. 16. time, time being; p. 48, l. 14. kill. kills; p. 49, l. 18. anaſeed, aniſeed; p. 58, l. 2. in caſe, in the caſe; p. 62, *laſt* l. it in malt, of it in malt; p. 65, l. 12. *, †; p. 67, l. 18. On the other, On another; p. 80, l. 22. onctuous, unctuous; p. 94, l. 12. reſults, reſult; p. 106, l. 18. neceſſarily, and neceſſarily; ibid. l. 24. no nothing, nothing.

TO

TO THE

# BRITISH SENATE,

OR,

# GREAT COUNCIL OF THE NATION.

*PATRES CONSCRIPTI,*

*INTEREST Reipublicæ, cognosci Malos,* said once the Prince of Orators before a moſt auguſt aſſembly. To YOU, therefore, RESPECTABLE BRITISH SENATORS, give me leave to addreſs it again, in this very critical juncture: when wolves, cloathed in the habit of lambs, come, with a faint voice, to proſtrate themſelves at YOUR feet, and ſupplicate the ſanction of YOUR authority, to extend ſtill more privileges, already too large, and ſatisfy, the better, that inſatiable thirſt after riches which conſumes them.

It was the opinion of the juſtly celebrated Chancellor BACON, that ſure guide of every inquirer into NATURAL PHILOSOPHY, that MEDICINE was but a branch of it, and could not be improved until its imperfections were pointed out. And, how will, how CAN, its very well known, and much complained of, preſent imperfect ſtate, ever be pointed out, if that ART be fettered, if it muſt be confined to a certain ſet of particular people who, pleaſing to call themſelves by the name of *regular-bred* to it, would like to engroſs to themſelves alone, and excluſively of any one elſe beſides, the free exerciſe of it; who would fain attempt to colour, with the moſt infamous denominations, any fair and candid inquirer into the merits and virtues of the drugs which compoſe the *materia medica*; while he is trying, for the ſake of improvements, the inexhauſtible modes of their combinations, and the innumerable advantages which may reſult from a juſt, and judicious application of them, in certain caſes? Can it be expected that thoſe ſo opulent practitioners, already drowned in profuſion, voluptuouſneſs, pleaſure and luxury, will exert their *thickened* and congealed imagination in the improving of an ART, the very defects, and imperfections of which, alone conſtitute that unfathomable golden mine whence they draw all

their

their wealth; and which, to increaſe *ſtill more*, they make it a point to exerciſe *ſtill more* imperfectly than it really is. CONTRARIIS CONTRARIA CURANTUR is an axiom approved by experience, and undeniable by reaſon. To the old, rich, and wealthy tradeſman, grown lazy and indolent, by an exuberant plenty, was not a young, induſtrious, man, oppoſed, what would become of trade, commerce and merchandiſing? ERROR and TRUTH always ſtand on the ſame line, and by the ſide of each other. From the diſcovery of the former, man is inſenſibly, and gradually, led to the enjoyment of the latter. Therefore, far from its being expedient, as ſome would inſinuate, to confine the number of thoſe who are engaged, at one and the ſame time, in the inquiry and purſuit of a deſirable object, it is evident that, the greater the number is, the ſooner may the diſcovery, or attainment, of that object be expected. Had the purſuit of MATHEMATICS, GEOMETRY, MECHANICS, NATURAL PHILOSOPHY, and other branches of uſeful knowledge, been, as the ART of PHYSIC, productive of any daily pecuniary emolument, at the time of the purſuit and exerciſe, to their purſuers and exerciſors, and had it been, at the ſame time, confined, in every age and every country, to a few ſelect individuals, how far ſhould we be now

from that light by which we are illuminated, and, to which we ſtand ſo much indebted for the many uſeful diſcoveries which contribute ſo largely, and in ſo many reſpects, to our preſent happineſs and ſatisfaction?

Now, what are all theſe without HEALTH? How can HEALTH, conſidering our preſent moſt erroneous way of living, ſo different from former ages, be preſerved, continued, or, recovered without MEDICINE? And how, by preference to any other art, can MEDICINE, the moſt intereſting and the moſt intricate of any, be ſaid, at this preſent time, to be brought to *its* perigee?—It is not.—If not; inſtead of fettering it more than it already is; inſtead of confining the number of the enquirers after it; it behoves then the LEGISLATURE to ſuffer, to ORDER it to be FREE and OPEN, for the benefit of ſociety, to every ingenious enquirer. And, THEY may even think it again a very happy caſe that, without being at the trouble of finding, as in other branches of learning, proper rewards to excite thoſe purſuers, increaſe their number, and encourage their ſteadineſs and perſeverance in ſuch inquiries, the SUCCESS ſhould carry thoſe very rewards in itſelf; and the hopes only of enjoying one day a return, proportionable and ade-

quate

quate to the utility of their diſcoveries, ſhould ſupport them in, and through, their labours; as experience ſhews that, by the unfortunate lot of man, that return never did yet, nor ever will, fail to prove, indeed, fully ſufficient to repay largely ſuch diſcoverers of NEW EFFICACIOUS MEDICINES for their time, trouble and expences.

IT is too well known to the generality of individuals, too perfectly averred, too unqueſtionably authenticated, that thoſe very ſame people who are underſtood and claſſed under the denomination of the FACULTY, impelled and ſtimulated by their ſelfiſh and intereſted views, never fail, wherever there is any appearance of lucre and profit to be drawn, to ſend an innumerable quantity of uſeleſs, and, as they pleaſe to conſider and term them, *harmleſs* medicines to their patients, the dangerous effect of which is that, after having thus trifled and ſported with their fellow-ſubjects' lives, for the ſake of thoſe pecuniary and mercenary emoluments they wiſhed to derive from their credulity, they have often fixed and rivetted a light complaint, and metamorphoſed it into a moſt hazardous and dangerous caſe, which it is not in the power of the moſt ſkilful ÆSCULAPIUS, afterwards, to eradicate; and which, after the moſt lingering pains, the moſt excru-

excruciating torments, terminates, at laſt, in the death of the patient. While, a timely application of one ſingle, and no expenſive, medicine might have removed the cauſe of the complaint, and preſerved an uſeful member to the community.

SUCH, MUCH RESPECTABLE SENATORS, is, however, and every individual among YOU knows it, if YOU do not, if YOU CANNOT, collectively know it as a body, ſuch is the character of thoſe men who, not yet content with the dangerous and extenſive power already too incautiouſly veſted in their hands, and which gives them the fatal opportunity of ſacrificing, at pleaſure, HIS MAJESTY'S faithful ſubjects to their inſatiable avarice, their greedineſs and covetouſneſs, are now plotting an application to this MOST AUGUST ASSEMBLY, in order to obtain, by ſurrepticious arguments and captious miſrepreſentations, a further extent of their already too large privileges; and a greater reſtriction of the ſole and only means, now extant, which, narrow as they are, can put, however, ſome ſort of a check to the ravage of their uncontroled devaſtations, and their unlawful practices.

To

To my first text, therefore, ILLUSTRIOUS SENATORS, I return, and insist that it is highly the interest of this free, powerful and populous Nation, that the WICKED who disturb her bosom, who are daily nibbling her heart, should be known, and amened before this MOST AWEFUL TRIBUNAL, to answer for their deeds and receive the sentence due to their deserts. Let the summons be given; and we shall see which, of the two contending parties, will be the readiest to obey it.

LET whoever will tremble. Conscious of my own rectitude, though ranged, by profession, among that particular class of people generally understood, and improperly denominated, by the empty and insignificant terms of QUACKS and EMPIRICKS, I am ready, whenever MALICE and ENVY shall sound the trumpet, to come full of that confidence and dutiful respect due, from every BRITON, to this MOST AUGUST ASSEMBLY, to stand forth in defence of the general rights of that class, and submit my own particular whole conduct, principles, motives and practice to the examen and censure which this GREAT AND IMPARTIAL ASSEMBLY, in its profound wisdom, will please to make, and, sure of its equity, to obey the sentence it will be



pleased

pleased to pronounce. For, if *Interest Reipublicæ cognosci* MALOS, there results two things, first that *non minùs ipsimet Reipublicæ interest*, BONOS *atque cognosci*; and, secondly, that the investigation of the one, in one single case, is, and must absolutely be, productive of the discovery of the other.—It is the object of the following sheets, MOST RESPECTABLE SENATORS, to elucidate to the community this intricate point, hitherto kept, by the artful insinuations one set of people, and the indolence of the other, in producing any defence, under an impenetrable veil of darkness. But, should it ever be the lot of this important cause to come before YOUR AUGUST TRIBUNAL, I shall not be backward in coming to acknowledge, at your feet, as I have just reason to do, the real confidence I place in your penetration and the equitableness of your judgments, as well as the sincere respect with which I glory to declare myself,

*PATRES CONSCRIPTI,*

YOUR PROFOUND JUDGMENTS'

Most Humble and Dutiful

Admirer, and Religious Observer,

THE AUTHOR.

PREFACE.

# PREFACE.

THE unfortunate and untimely death of Dr. GOLDSMITH, in March 1774, followed, little more than twelve months after, by that of Mr. SCAWEN; and both said to be owing to some of the most accredited *advertised-medicines*, raised, about that time, such an universal cry against those sorts of preparations, and their authors, that nothing less than a total abolition of both, seemed to be threatening, and near at hand. The triumphant car was already prepared which all the QUACKS were to follow, chained down to it, with their medicines hanging about their neck: and a great deal besides, more easy to be fancied than described, was expected to be the consequence of two such accidents, happening on two so conspicuous persons, as those last victims of *advertised-medicines*.---The scandalous charges, seasoned with the most malicious and envenomed language, and quickened with the most cutting lashes of invidious acrimony, were pouring like hail from all sides; and, in the midst of that storm, when every thing seemed to portend a wreck, the poor QUACKS seemed petrified, as if the *head* of *Medusa* had appeared before them, and

 received

received the fire of the enemy with a kind of inſenſibility, and without offering to reply by one ſingle round.---Amazed, at that ſtate of indifference, in the injured party; and not knowing what to aſcribe it to, whether to a want of feeling, to inability, cowardice, or what elſe; and conſcious, at the ſame time, of the goodneſs of the cauſe, as well as of the advantages of the grounds on which it was to be fought, I ventured a few reflections on paper, in defence of the MINERALS in general, and, eſpecially the two moſt diſparaged ones, MERCURY and ANTIMONY. There, I endeavoured, by rational arguments, and without any retaliation of injury, to convince unprejudiced minds of their power, their efficacy, and their SAFETY above all; for, this was the great contended point, and the moſt material article. But, about the ſame time, the trial of Miſs BUTTERFIELD came on at Croydon; where, had it not been for a multiplicity of affairs then on my hands, I ſhould not have failed to attend, firſt led by the ſame curioſity as brought thouſands to that place, but more eſpecially, and particularly, for the ſake of hearing what might be urged and debated, about the merit or demerit of the medicines, to the charge of which Mr. SCAWEN's death was to be laid.---However, by the printed copy of that trial, which now lies before me, I had the ſatisfaction to find that nothing bad had been proved againſt any one in particular, and intrinſically, that is to ſay, in reſpect to the nature of their compoſition, and their application to the ſeveral purpoſes for which they are each ſingly and ſpecificatively calculated. As I found alſo, that it was clearly proved, to the ſatisfaction of the jury and all who were preſent, that ONLY an *improper* and *ſecret* uſe Mr. SCAWEN might

might *himſelf*, * (and without † the knowledge and participation of Miſs BUTTERFIELD) have made of ſome ſuch medicine, (but which, in particular, could not poſitively be aſcertained) had perhaps contributed to or haſtened, his deſtruction.

AFTER ſuch an evident acquital, of the many charges laid daily, for a great while, to the ſcore of QUACK-MEDICINES, I expected every thing would have remained quiet as before, and the ſtorm would have ſubſided, which had raged ſo vehemently againſt them for ſome time. Therefore, little deſirous, after the example of a certain brother QUACK ‡ of the Strand, juſt ſallied out from thoſe obſcure caves, and dark receſſes under the ſea, to erect, like him, my little fame on the bare point of a wave, for fear of ſeeing it ſink back for ever into the gloomy dungeon whence it had ſprung, I thruſt my ſcribbling into my deſk, with great compoſure, and there would have had it ſleep a good while, had not the continual ſhrieks of that laſt animal forced it out again from the place I had aſſigned it *nonum in annum*.---I took it up again then, gave it a new form, and, ſuch as it now ſtands, it would have come out in *January* laſt, had it not been prevented by an accident which happened to the perſon I had firſt appointed for the publiſhing of it.

* It appeared by the trial, that Mr. SCAWEN had a cloſet well ſtored with various medicines, and of all denominations, to which he uſed to recur ſometimes in the abſence of Miſs BUTTERFIELD.

† Two things were alledged, and attempted to be eſtabliſhed, in the trial of Miſs BUTTERFIELD, neither of which were proved. The one, that Miſs BUTTERFIELD was the adminiſtratrix of Mr. SCAWEN's death; the other, as a reply to this allegation, that he was killed by a *quack-medicine*. But, both aſſertions were proved equally void of foundation; and a much clearer evidence aroſe, that the horrid putrid ſtate of his body was more than ſufficient to bring on a natural deſtruction of the ſubject, through the pernicious effects of his own diſeaſe alone, and without the ſuppoſed aſſiſtance of any medicine whatever.

‡ See note page 3 of the *Free thoughts*, &c. where the true meaning, and application, of this word are elucidated.

THUS have I now acquainted my reader with the motives which prompted me to write, what gave them birth, and what, after this publication had been reſolved upon, prevented its taking place ſooner. This being accounted for, it ſeems as if I had nothing more to ſay, and ſhould leave the public at liberty to examine my pamphlet, and pronounce on the validity, or inſufficiency, of my arguments in favour of QUACKS *and their* MEDICINES.

BUT, the glaring abſurdities contained in a certain pamphlet, the offspring of that *brother* of ours juſt mentioned, emphatically entituled, *An Account of the late Dr.* GOLDSMITH's *Illneſs*, &c. and pompouſly dedicated to the FIRST PAINTER OF THE PRESENT AGE for one patron, and to a certain UPRIGHT SENATOR, THE MOST ACCOMPLISHED ORATOR, for another, require from me I ſhould take ſome notice of them, in order to prevent this *Lilliputian* of a writer from fancying himſelf, and trying to perſuade us, that HE is alſo the FIRST CRITICO-PHARMACOLOGIST of this UNPARALELLED NATION, *for three evident reaſons* * ; *firſt*, becauſe he has two ſuch eminent perſonages for patrons ; *ſecondly*, becauſe he was, (as we have his WORD for it) in the intimacy of *a man ſo much diſtinguiſhed in the republic of letters as his late* MUCH VALUED *friend Dr.* GOLDSMITH ; *thirdly*, and finally, becauſe, (as he takes care to have it repeated THREE different † times in his Pamphlet) he has

* See his *account*, &c. p. 3. l. 3. He has generally *three reaſons* for what he *feels* ; therefore, why ſhould we not ſuppoſe him *three* reaſons likewiſe for what he does.

† Page 3, 21, and 35, of the ſaid *account*, &c.—Our man ſeems to be very fond of number *three*.

been

been *so assiduous in establishing* * *in this kingdom an institution for the* RECOVERY OF PERSONS APPARENTLY DEAD BY DROWNING, &c. THERE-

* Whoever has read Dr. MEAD's works, will know that, in one of his ESSAYS, intituled OF THE MAD DOG, he gives us all the directions necessary, and capable, to inspire any one with the scheme of establishing such an institution as that for which my honest *brother quack* affects so much to make us sensible of his indefatigableness to bring it about in this kingdom; as if no one else, before him, had ever had such a thought, nor been able to plan out such a thing, except himself. But this little *quackish* trick, we willingly forgive him. It is so, we know, that a *real* QUACK ought generally to work, when he wants to ingratiate himself into the good graces of the public, and render himself perspicuous at the cost, and with the spoils, of the greatest physicians who lived before him, and whose name, known only to those of the profession, is sometimes hardly ever heard of by any other besides. What then, really astonishes me, is a certain curious anecdote just communicated to me by a French gentleman well known in the republic of letters.—This gentleman informs me, that it was not without some surprise, he himself had taken notice of the affected silence observed, throughout the whole *account of Dr.* GOLDSMITH's *death*, concerning a very respectable gentleman of his acquaintance, *Alexander* JOHNSON, doctor in physic, whom my friend assures me to be really the first promoter of the scheme, for establishing, in this kingdom, an institution *for the recovery of drowned persons*, after the manner of similar institutions, already established, in France, Holland, Germany, and other places. The proofs of this assertion brought to me by this gentleman, are as follows.—That, towards the latter end of 1772, falling in company with Dr. JOHNSON, who was lately returned from abroad, he heard him mention, with a great deal of concern, how unhappy it was that so many unremedied accidents should happen on the river Thames, as did daily! How well ordered, in that respect, it was in several other countries, where he had travelled; and where societies were set on foot, on purpose for the recovery of those who had the misfortune to be drowned; and how surprising it was, that a country, like England, should appear so remiss in procuring an establishment of that kind, when it was so necessary, and, in so many respects, worthy her greatest attention!—That, towards the beginning of the following year (1773,) this gentleman, having had occasion to pay a visit to the DOCTOR, he found him very busy in collecting all the informations he could, from different parts of the continent, to prove, to the legislature of this kingdom, the possibility of the institution, the means by which it might be put into execution, and the great advantages it would be of to the community, &c. which collection of informations was then in the press, and came out a little after in one thick octavo pamphlet, with the DOCTOR's name at the head, under the title of *An Account of some Societies at Amsterdam and Hamburgh, for the Recovery of drowned Persons, and of similar Institutions at &c. &c.* by ALEXANDER JOHNSON, M. D. *London*, sold by *John Nourse, Wilkie*, &c. 1773, as appears by the book itself, which my friend, having received from the DOCTOR's own hands, has now put into mine for my thorough conviction.—Therefore, as this gentleman never heard, at the time before specified, the

THEREFORE, to cut ſhort, I will take the liberty to aſk this mighty critick the *cui bono of his account of Dr.* GOLDSMITH's *death*; the whole tendency of which may, I think, very well come within one of the *three* following QUERIES, and, as it will evidently appear, cannot eaſily avoid being one of them.

1ſt, WAS it with an intent, merely and ſolely, to give us the particulars of the death of a man whoſe "*life*" was † "*ſo valuable and ſo important to his friends, and ſociety?*"

2. WAS it through the generous deſign of POINTING OUT to us, as a modeſt, learned, and experienced practitioner, the "*ſeveral caſes wherein*" the "*noted* ‡ *ſever-*

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the name of my dear *brother-quack* once mentioned in the mouth of Dr. JOHNSON, and not a word of him is ſaid in the worthy DOCTOR's publication, I think I, and a great many more with me, ſhould like to know how it comes to paſs that all the laurels, for the planning, propoſing, and eſtabliſhing that ſo much boaſted *inſtitution*, which turns almoſt the brains of its preconiſer, ſhould thus be divided between him and Doctor C—G—N, without a ſingle ſyllable dropped about Dr. JOHNSON, not even of mere acknowledgment and gratitude for the great pains, it is moſt glaringly evident, that a man of the merit and abilities of Dr. JOHNSON has taken in the affair, and taken moſt inconteſtably before any of the preſent claimants were and could be, in poſſeſſion of it; and to whom any one may ſee theſe muſt undoubtedly be indebted for the firſt hint and ſuggeſtion. In which caſe, I am glad of having had ſuch an opportunity of doing this piece of juſtice to the highly meritorious Doctor JOHNSON, who, by the puffs of this newly *aggregated* DUCK, ſeemed in great danger of being ſoon or late deprived of the thanks of the Nation for his laudable zeal in laying the firſt ſtone of the aforeſaid inſtitution, and in furniſhing all the other materials neceſſary and requiſite for its being carried into execution, by means of proper memorials, inſtructions, rules, directions, &c. As for my part, fond of acknowledging and honouring real merit, wherever I find it, it is pleaſing to me to have an opportunity of paying a proper homage where I ſee it due; and, as I think nothing ſo mean as to aſcribe to one's ſelf the honour of other people's productions in any common caſe, ſo in matter of ſuch public concern, I think it worſe ſtill; therefore one may gueſs what I think.

† Page 3 and 9 of the Account. ‡ Page 9, line 7.

"*powder*"

"*powder*" of Dr. JAMES *has proved injurious*," and, prudently and humanely, to diſtinguiſh, for the benefit *, of mankind, ſuch caſes from thoſe in which, by "a "*proper and ſkilful exhibition of them*," ‖ *much good* † *has* "*ariſen?*" Or, rather (as it appears more plainly and openly declared in the appendix) was it not really a malicious ſcheme "*to exhibit* ‡ *to the world, one example of* "*the horrid deeds done in the dark*," not by the *ſever-powder* only, but (taking a larger ſcope at once, and throwing down the maſk of conſcience and honeſty, under the diſguiſe of which he had affected to ſcreen himſelf before) "*by*" all "*powerful medicines*" without exception?

3. OR, was it not as likely an artful contrivance, to have an opportunity to make himſelf conſpicuous, by *exhibiting to the world* his connexions with the great men of the age, the *literati*, the renowned artiſts, the patriots and popular politicians, &c. and of ſinging his own praiſes on various keys, as a man of deep medical knowledge; a man of long (15 ‖ years) practice and experience; a man of tender feelings for his fellow-creatures; a man, in ſhort, of credit and conſequence in life, who is at the head of the moſt laudable of inſtitutions, *(an inſtitution for the reſurrection of dead people!)* and, of courſe, (for ſuch muſt unavoidably be the concluſion) a man--- not who has *the vain deſire* § *of appearing in the character of an author*,---but WHO would be very glad, I dare ſay, to be henceforth looked upon as the beſt, the moſt ſkilful apothecary in London,---in England,---in all the world; and, even at the very expence

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* Page 12, line 2, 3, &c. † Page 9, line 16.
‡ Page 33, line 3. ‖ Page 3, line 2.
§ It cannot be ſuppoſed, ſince he has proteſted againſt it, page 9, line 11.

of

of his much boaſted of humanity, to engroſs all the practice to himſelf, ſhould *all his brethren* be ſtarving at the ſame time, and HE forced to ride in his chariot all his life.

HAD the author of the *Account of Dr.* GOLDSMITH's *death* had no other view but that pointed out in the firſt *query*, it might have been a laudable one enough: eſpecially as we are remarkable for waſting much ink and paper, in all caſes, to extol to the very ſkies, and record in the temple of memory, every little bubble which the wind carries over our head. Therefore Dr. GOLDSMITH who, a bad * phyſician enough becauſe he had only been bred to it, had diſtinguiſhed himſelf among us by ſome tolerable good poetical productions, becauſe he was born to poetry, was not altogether unworthy an honourable notice being taken of the loſs we had ſuſtained by his death, and of the accident to which this had been owing.---But, as, from the context of the ſame *account*, it is more than evident this was but the leaſt object of the pamphlet, and ſerved only as a baſis, on which a much dearer one was to be eſtabliſhed, we ſhall quit it without further animadverſions, to paſs to a more ſcrupulous examen of the ſecond *query*.

Now, that the *ambicipity* of this ſecond *query* exhibits a true and literal picture, in the firſt part, of what our writer would wiſh to be accounted for, and is far from being; and, in the ſecond, of his real character; is what may eaſily be evinced from a fair examen of the context of his pamphlet, and a comparative view of the ſeveral parts which compoſe it. For, had his intentions

* This epithet is given on the confeſſion of the author of the pamphlet, page 10, lines 9, 12, 13.

been as pure and as good as he wiſhes * us to miſtake them, he would have expatiated only on the riſk people run, the danger they expoſe themſelves to, by their obſtinacy, their ignorance, or their temerity, in imprudently uſing medicines, without being firſt perfectly well acquainted with the nature of their own particular caſe, and whether or not that medicine ſuits it.---Then, entering more minutely into particulars, all his endeavours would have been only to throw into the public's minds a certain ſhyneſs and diffidence, concerning their own judgment, of which the generality are but too apt to form a very favourable opinion; to point out how THE BEST of medicines may, by an improper *exhibition* (as he calls it) turn into a poiſon. Thus, fairly and honeſtly would he have acted, had he had the welfare of his fellow-creatures really, and as much, at heart as, by his affected repetitions, he ſeems deſirous to make us believe he has; had, in ſhort, his real concern been, only and ſolely, the enlightening of the raſh, or, ignorant multitude.

And, indeed, with an example of the nature of that of Dr. GOLDSMITH, he had undoubtedly a very fair opportunity, "ſince," could he have ſaid, "a man endowed with natural abilities, a cultivated and adorned "genius; ſupported by a judgment above the common; "a man provided beſides with a ſmattering of the art of "phyſic; ſince ſuch a man could thus miſguide himſelf."--- the ſimple and obvious concluſion comes of courſe,---"*a fortiori* muſt not expect to commit much "groſſer errors, in the ſame way, people of no educa-

* Throughout the whole pamphlet, but in plain words, page 11. line 19. and following till p. 12. l. 1—6. then p. 17. l. 10, 11, and following p. 18. l. 1—7. again p. 19. l. 14—17.

"tion, no judgment, no diſcernment; who, becauſe "they hear that ſuch a medicine is calculated to re- "move ſuch a diſorder, take it in a hurry before they "give themſelves time to be fully, and properly, ſa- "tisfied whether, or not, they are attacked with that "ſpecies, and upon a doubtful, or erroneous, ſymptom "or indication? . . . ."

WITH ſuch, or ſimilar, reaſoning, his pamphlet might have proved of utility to the community; nay of ſome fatality, perhaps too, to the QUACKS *and their* MEDICINES: For, the conſequence might have been that theſe reaſonings would have perſuaded ſome people to do what he is ſo viſibly bent *, and intent, to bring them to, *viz:* not to recur to the uſe of advertiſed medicines, "*with- "out the previous advice*" of regulars, which might have ſtruck a bad blow enough † to thoſe ſorts of remedies and their

* All through the whole pamphlet, but eſpecially page 10, line 2; page 11, line 12, 13, and 14.

† Were the *advertiſed medicines* to be taken but upon the advice of a member of the FACULTY, God knows how few would be taken, if even their virtues were proved to be never ſo good, their adminiſtration never ſo ſafe! So far is our FACULTY, in that reſpect, different from that of FRANCE! There, for an example, you ſee the *Quack-medicine* of a KEYSER has had the faireſt play. A Marſhal of France (Duke of Biron) names a particular ſet of phyſicians and ſurgeons, of the moſt eminent reputation and acknowledged abilities, to inſpect two different, and ſucceſſive, courſes of treatment, for the Venereal diſeaſe, performed on *twenty* ſoldiers ſelected, and examined, among the moſt infected ones of his regiment, to try the merit of that medicine. And, theſe honeſt and generous REGULARS, with a candour which does them the greateſt honour and credit, (and unexamplified among Us) give their verdict in favour of the medicine and its author. They go farther; they acknowledge its high ſuperiority over the old accuſtomed practice of ſalivation, avow its ſafety, and declare it infinitely preferable.——That is not all. An hoſpital is erected, afterwards, by the ſame noble colonel, at his own private expence, for the future, and conſtant, treatment of his own ſoldiers. There, he permits, however, others alſo to be treated, when the nature of their caſe is ſuch as promiſe a ſtronger elucidation of the intrinſical merit, or yet undiſcovered *peccatum*, of the medicine. But, this is done always under the eyes of inſpectors

their proprietors.---But, by the ſtep he has taken, he has totally miſſed his aim; by his unſkilfulneſs he has ſtruck no blow at all, except againſt himſelf, and againſt his brethren. He has only diſcovered the vile principle of animoſity and vengeance by which he was actuated, the infamous ſource whence ſpring all his declamations, and the old rancor of thoſe of his profeſſion againſt our remedies, without bringing out one ſingle good, and ſenſible argument to ſerve his and their own cauſe.

THEREFORE, with that impatience which an old goſſip of a woman diſcovers to unburden her heart, to every creature ſhe meets, of the ſecret intruſted her not an hour before, our Author, not knowing how to make us find out what he thinks to have ſo cunningly, ſo artfully, ſo archly wrapt up and concealed under the veil of candour and diſintereſtedneſs, and dreading nothing ſo much but that the dulneſs of the underſtanding of his readers who, he is very ſenſible, cannot all be bleſſed with the "*genuine*" * and penetrating "*wit*" of his "*late* † *reſpected and ingenious friend* Dr.

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inſpectors of the firſt characters, of inſpectors uſed to a contrary practice, and eminent in that practice; and always their certificate is favourable.—— At laſt, the government itſelf takes cognizance of the affair. By the King's order, the remedy is analized, under the inſpection of his firſt phyſician and ſurgeon, and in the preſence of the ACADEMY OF SCIENCES; by other colleges of phyſic of repute in the kingdom, the ſame is alſo done; and all the joint reports concur in favouring the remedy and giving it the greateſt character. And the whole ends by *His Moſt Chriſtian Majeſty* giving a penſion of five hundred pounds ſterling (*ten thouſand* French livres) a year to the author, as an annuity for his life, beſides the loan of fifty thouſand Engliſh crowns (one hundred thouſand French half-crowns, or, fifteen thouſand pounds of Engliſh money) to the ſame, for the diſcovery, of his ſecret and a copy of his RECEIPT.——What a generoſity of proceedings in thoſe gentlemen of the FACULTY in FRANCE!.... And, what an invidious ſoul! What a degrading, what a diſgracing, conduct ſhines forth in ours!..... Shameful is the compariſon.....odious.....infamous.....!

* Page 20, line 18. † Page 21, line 3.

"GOLDSMITH," ſhould make them miſapprehend his real intention, an *Appendix* is added to the famous Pamphlet which was to bring in, by the "*profits* * *of*" its "*publication*", ſuch immenſe ſums of money, for the ſupport of the much talked of "*inſtitution* †, *the deſign* "*of which*" had been "*favoured with his*" (deceaſed friend's "*approbation*". It is in that *Appendix* we ſee at laſt the bung of the deep ſink, taken out, and the black envenomed gall of ſpite and malevolence ſtarting up, and forcing its way with impetuoſity, to roll in large ſtreams through the channel of three ſuppoſed letters which he addreſſes to himſelf under the fictitious names of *Meanwell*, *a Friend to the Public*, and *a Friend to Humanity*. In the firſt of theſe letters, the poiſon is lanced againſt ‡ *James's Fever Powder*, only, and the perſon who *has been employed for many years to make it*. In the ſecond, after great encomiums (*aſinus aſinum* ſemper *fricat*) paſſed upon him for "*the great caution* § "*and moderation with which*" he had ſpoken "*of that* "*celebrated Powder*", &c. the thunder is heard once more to growl, and the flaſh falls at laſt on "*all the* "*powerful* || *medicines*" in general, and without exception, for "*the horrid deeds done*" by them "*in the* "*dark*".

Now, therefore, to come to the point at once, what is then that ſo heinous quality which is reproached to moſt of *the advertiſed medicines*?---What! To be potent?---That is preciſely, in my opinion, what makes their merit, what conſtitutes their very perfection.---To kill, *ſometimes*, if adminiſtered untimely, injudici-

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* Page 21, line 10. † Ibid, line 11. ‡ Page 31, line 3.
§ Page 32, line 14. || Page 33, line 3.

ouſly,

ſuſly, improperly in ſhort?---I ſee nothing again in that but what is very natural, and what will eſtabliſh and aſcertain ſtill better, and more ſtrongly, the merit, virtue and efficacy of the medicine. For, if it had no power, no virtue, to do good, it could do no harm. To exclaim againſt the *potency* of a medicine, is then no better than it would be to exclaim againſt the SUN for having *that* of warming us, and procuring the fecundity of the earth. For, ſhould it be proved, that it may ſcorch and burn to aſhes, nay that it has poſitively ſcorched and burnt a plant confined under a ſmall glaſs, and expoſed to it at noon in a hot ſummer's day, what will it ſignify, if at the ſame time we know that, with a proper management, with a due admiſſion of air, and addition of coverings to procure a ſhade, it would have vivified that ſame plant, promoted its vegetation, and brought it to maturity and perfection, which, without it, could have but languiſhed, gradually decayed and died at laſt? All the errors which a fooliſh prentice-boy, or even his maſter in a fit of drunkenneſs, might commit by an injudicious management of the SUN, could never have induced a MILLAR, or perſuade a KENNEDY and LEE, a MALCOM or an ABERCROMBIE, to write againſt it, and endeavour to drive it out of their *nurſeries*, and their *hot* or *green-houſes*; nor prevent their calling it into the aſſiſtance of their *melons* and *cucumber-beds*. Though it might very likely inſpire that frantic zeal to one of their journey-men, juſt ſet up for himſelf in ſome dark corner, and ſpending his days in raiſing *turneps* and *potatoes*.

To exclaim then, I ſay, againſt a medicine, becauſe one, two, three, or twenty people may have died by an injudicious, an irrational adminiſtration of it, and to make that a cauſe of diſparagement againſt it, a reaſon why

why it ſhould be ſuppreſſed, is then again as abſurd as the former. We might, with as much propriety, exclaim againſt a pump, becauſe a man, raving mad with a high fever, after having deceived his nurſe and all his attendants, ſhall have run down the yard, drunk of it, and killed himſelf by it. A great many drown themſelves every day in a fit of deſpair, or by accident, in the river THAMES. Why do not, then, thoſe ſcrupulous, and ſo highly benevolent, ſcrutators of good and evil, offer likewiſe to remove it from this metropolis? Why do they not attempt, in ſome fine piece of oratory, to make it the ſtandard criterion of a well-regulated government not to admit, or allow, a drop of water in its department, and to prove, by the beſt reaſonings, that it is highly detrimental to good policy, on account of the dangerous conſequences reſulting from it, and the *horrid deeds it gives room to be committed in the dark*, in ſhort the very many accidents of all ſorts which reſult from it.---Laughable, indeed!---At that rate we ſhould ſoon find ourſelves reduced to the ſame degree of real diſtreſs and miſery, to which that man was once, who could not touch any thing but it was converted into gold, and ſtarved. For, that thing is not, and never was yet, created, an exceſſive, ill-judged, or, injudicious uſe of which has, or had not, (as I ſay, page 53 of this Pamphlet) the power to kill us. I have known a young girl of eighteen years old who, in the time of plumbs, had eaten ſuch a quantity of them in one day, (of which ſhe had likewiſe ſwallowed every one of the ſtones, for fear of the people where ſhe lived perceiving ſhe had robbed them of thoſe plumbs) that ſhe was very near looſing her life by it. Another, of about nine or ten years of age, to whom a bag of Spaniſh nuts had been made a preſent of, concealed herſelf in a garret for a whole day, except at meal-times when ſhe made her appearance,

pearance, and pretended ſhe was not hungry and could not eat; and, between thoſe meals, never ceaſed to hammer and crack her nuts, and eat them, till ſhe had made an end of them; and the next day ſhe was a dying, and would have died, indeed, had not a great deal of pains been taken about her, which, with the aſſiſtance of her youth and good conſtitution, ſaved her at laſt. Thouſands of examples of all ſorts might be brought to ſhew that an abuſe of the moſt innocent things (*in ſe* innocent and harmleſs) is rank poiſon.

Now, it is acknowledged by the author of the *Account of* Dr. GOLDSMITH's death that "*from a proper* * "*and ſkilful exhibition of* Dr. James's Powders † *much good* "*has ariſen, in many caſes of fevers*;" and a little farther, that "*the practice* ‡ *of Dr. James's himſelf*" was never to adminiſter "*his* fever-powders" but with "*great* "*caution and circumſpection, and*" to deſiſt "from the "*exhibition of them, when he*" found "*them not operate in* "*the manner he wiſhed or expected.*" Is not this the greateſt encomium which can be paſſed both on the medicine and its author? And is not this the caſe with all the beſt medicines whatever, whether of the preparation of the REGULARS, or of that of the IR-*regulars*? Is not this what I have poſitively ſaid, repeated and inſiſted upon, moſt ſtrongly, moſt ſtrenuouſly, all along in this work, *viz:* that OUR (the QUACKS') MEDICINES require a ſkilful and judicious adminiſtration? And, as I ſaid openly in the note, page 98 and 99, that *to produce a cure, a medicine ought to be adapted to the nature of the conſtitution of the patient, as much as, to procure the nouriſhment of the body, the aliments ought to be adapted to that ſame con-*

* Page 9, line 16 and following.

† Dr. James's Powder is an Antimonial and Mercurial preparation.

‡ Page 10, line 5 and following.

*ſtitution*

*ſtitution*, is not that maxim favourable to, and concordant with, Dr. JAMES's own practice, who uſed to deſiſt adminiſtering his *powders* when he found they did not operate *as he wiſhed or expected*? And does it not prove that, when any of OUR moſt diſparaged medicines are taken with prudence, and adminiſtered with caution, no harm ought to be expected, or feared, nor poſſibly can enſue, from them, more than from any other (ſent from the ſhops and ordered by a regular-bred Doctor) which ſhall be uſed with the ſame circumſpection: in ſhort, that it will do no more hurt than bread, ſoup, pudding, broth, or any ſuch, or ſimilar, innocent food whatever, taken in moderation.

THE concluſion of all this, therefore, is that the death of Dr. GOLDSMITH, owing to an undeniable and demonſtrated injudicious uſe of Dr. JAMES's *Fever-powders*, ſhews only, to a demonſtration alſo, the *little ſenſe* and *judgment* there was left, at that moment, in the poor head of that *great man*, once "*bred* * *a phyſician*," ſince "*abſorbed* † *by polite literature*" and then "*taken* ‡ "*ill*", on a ſudden by a head-ach! And that his apothecary had not much more about himſelf than the Doctor, both for ſuffering him to take the powders at firſt, and ſince for making ſuch a rout about them, and the death of his friend.

AND, indeed, who could reſtrain being incenſed at ſuch a heap of abſurdities as he accumulates one over another! What! becauſe a muſquet has done never ſo horrible a miſchief in the hands of a child, or a madman, is it a reaſon why an act of parliament ſhould be

* Page 20, line 9. † Ibid, line 12. ‡ Page 1, line 6.

brought

brought to forbid the manufacturing, or importing, of them in the kingdom, as we were once fools enough to do, with reſpect to that *wicked weed* the HOP, becauſe it made them drunken who drank beer wherein there was any?---There are not in the Univerſe *two conſtitutions* alike, nor *two caſes* of diſorder alike; no more than there are two faces alike, two drops of water alike, or two drachms (even of the ſame ſtuff) alike; ſhould theſe be ſo ſcrupulouſly, ſo attentively weighed, in the ſame ſcale, with the ſame weights, and by the moſt accurate mathematician. Therefore, as I have ſaid it already, every thing, food, pleaſure, exerciſe, drink, diet, medicine, &c, ought all equally to be adapted to every ſingle ſubject. Such is the meaning of the *prudent and judicious adminiſtration* ſo much recommended, and ſo much inſiſted upon, in matters of medicine. It is then in other words nothing but a ſagacious increaſe or decreaſe, a prudent and *à-propos* deſiſtance and ſuppreſſion of the doſes, derived from a watchful attention on the effects they produce, which effects, none but fools can misjudge; eſpecially, when directions are ſo plainly given, as they generally are. But, the abſurdity of people, againſt which never enough can be ſaid, leads them to make this reaſoning by themſelves, *viz.* if *one grain* of ſuch a thing does ſo much good, why! ſure TWO GRAINS muſt do a *vaſt deal* more! And it is that *additional* grain preciſely which kills them.---My own medicine has not, hitherto, TO MY KNOWLEDGE, done the leaſt harm to any one individual. I would not, however, be the huſband of the woman who would ſwallow one bottle of it at one draught in the morning; for, I think I ſhould run a great riſk of being a widower in the evening. And, though I may, with advantage to my health, drink every day my ſix-penny worth of rum and water, or brandy and water, I would not be ſeized with the phrenzy of drinking a bottle of either of theſe

ſpirits to quench my thirſt; for, I fancy I ſhould never be tempted to drink another, or any thing elſe, indeed, afterwards.

BUT, the promoter of the famous *Inſtitution for the recovery of drowned people*, underſtands nothing of all this, and will not abſolutely have it ſo. And, becauſe *ten ounces* of an *advertiſed medicine* cannot be taken at once, without cauſe and reaſon, with as much ſafety as *one grain*, when the caſe exiſts in which it will do good, that medicine is to be diſcountenanced, nay diſcarded, rejected, totally ſuppreſſed. Then, indeed, if that be the caſe, let him ſhut up his own ſhop, and all his brethren do the ſame: for, I am ſure, and both he and they know it equally well, there is not one ſingle drug in it, but what will produce the ſame effect.

AFTER all, let it be well underſtood, I mean not here, nor would I be thought ever to have meant it, in any part of this work, to take indiſcriminately the part of every fooliſh advertiſed medicine which comes in the head of any ignorant cobler, or country horſe-doctor, &c, &c, nor to defend thouſands of lies, and impoſitions, propagated daily, ſuch as POWERFUL EXTRACTS, *which* EXTRICATE, *or take, the Mercury out of the* BLOOD *and* BONES, *in an* EASY WAY . . . OR, MACHINES *of curious and new invention* EFFECTUALLY *to* EXTRACT *Mercury out of the body*, &c, &c, impoſtures, indeed, of ſuch a nature as to fall as much under the cognizance and juriſdiction of the civil magiſtrate of Bow-ſtreet, as thoſe of the conjuror of the Old-Baily.---Whatever I have ſaid, therefore, on the ſubject, in defence of *Quacks and their Medicines*, muſt always be conſtrued in favour of thoſe accredited ones, the merit of which is ſufficiently aſcertained, from their long ſtanding, or, the origin of which is well known to be owing to ſome eminent perſonage in the

the Pharmaceutical art. As for the others, they are not worth our notice or attention, nor the time and paper which would be employed in the confuting of them. ---If ſo, ſome perhaps will ſay, a little time and paper ſhould be ſpared, however, and would not be ill beſtowed, in preventing the danger to which the propagation of ſuch impoſtures might expoſe people's lives, was not a check put to their ſpreading as they do by means of advertiſements. But, to that I anſwer, that, as *eight* or *nine* * *hundred pounds* a year are the leaſt ſum a medicine can coſt to its proprietor, to be advertiſed (and yet but indifferently) all over England, that is to ſay in this metropolis's, and the country, papers; and that, to be *well* advertiſed every day, it coſts, at leaſt, *fifteen hundred pounds* every twelve calendar months, it is not difficult to conceive, and remain convinced at the ſame time, that a *bad*, an *inſignificant*, or a *dangerous* medicine, can never ſtand, many years, ſuch an expence, for two obvious, and very ſtrong, reaſons.---The proprietor of that medicine is a man of fortune, or, he is not. If he is a man of fortune; it can be but a ſmall one; that is to ſay ſuch as its maſter wants to put out at the beſt advantage, as not being ſufficient, as it is, to keep him in a genteel character all the time he is likely to live; for, a man of real, large and independent fortune, would not ſubmit to the trouble of becoming a wholeſale, or retail, dealer in *Quack-medicines*.---If he is a man of no fortune

* On which, upon an average, ſometimes one *third*, but more often one *half*, goes to the King as a duty.——If the advertiſements run upon *ſix* ſhillings, the King's duty being only *two*, he receives no more than one *third*; ſo, that, upon *nine* hundred pounds, he has only *three*. But, if the advertiſements run upon four ſhillings, which are the moſt common, it is evident the King has one *half*, which make *four hundred and fifty* pounds, out of *nine hundred*, but *ſeven hundred and fifty*, when fifteen hundred pounds are ſpent, in advertiſing a medicine in the three kingdoms, at *four* ſhillings each advertiſement. What a vaſt amount muſt the King's revenue come to, from the *Quack-Medicines* only!

at all, then he muſt depend upon the produce of the very medicine itſelf, to feed the papers with a proper number of advertiſements, in order to extend the fame of that medicine, and increaſe its ſale. Now, ſuppoſe the medicine to be a bad one. It is evident that no atteſtations can be obtained of its good effects: no recommendation will be given, by the laſt who tried it, to his friend, to his neighbour, labouring under the ſame pains, as himſelf. Each medicine which is ſold, is then ſold for the firſt time to one who tries it only in a fit of deſpair, without any authority, or previous example to induce him, without other reaſon but his preſent anguiſh; and, that eſſay proving ineffectual, he does not try a ſecond. *Therefore*, in the firſt caſe, the little fortune of the one, ſoon exhauſted, for want of a return, obliges him to give up the advertiſing, after a very ſhort time; and the other, for want of funds, is obliged to drop it, ſtill ſooner, on the very ſame account. *Therefore*, the conſequence now is, that no medicine, but what can and muſt prove an exceſſive good one indeed, and what is attended with very great ſucceſs, and a very great number of them, will ever bring ſuch a ſum back to its proprietor, as will enable him to advertiſe it properly during a long courſe of years, and procure him enough *beſides*, to make him think it worth his while to follow that profeſſion, and give his time, his attention, and his labour to it. That obſervation will always be then a ſure and ſafe criterion, by means of which, without any further enquiry, about the character of a medicine, the PUBLIC may be able to judge of the degree of merit it is poſſeſſed of, and the degree of confidence it deſerves from him: but not, it is true, of the various caſes in which it is, or is not, applicable; for, that is another part.—See what I ſay to that purpoſe, at the bottom of page 46 of this pamphlet.

NEITHER

NEITHER did I mean, by handling ſo ſeverely as I have done, my little brother of the Strand, on the abſurdities of his own Pamphlet, to aſſert that there is any one medicine in the world which can be applied as a general ſpecific, or a ſure and *never-failing* remedy in all caſes and conſtitutions. *Therefore*, I could not mean to inſinuate, againſt all ſenſe and reaſon, that Dr. JAMES's *Powders*, in particular, will do wonders in all ſorts of fevers, and in all ſtages of that diſorder, indiſcriminately and without any further conſideration. For, if they ariſe from a ſtoppage; ſurely, it muſt firſt be removed: if from bad humours; undoubtedly, they muſt previouſly be corrected: and ſo forth. *Therefore*, I will not deny (and, as I proved it before, that is to ſay in the note, page 98 and 99 of this work, without its being in any wiſe diſcreditable to thoſe ſame powders) that to them the death of Dr. GOLDSMITH may very well be imputed; but, that, at the ſame time, to my *illuſtrious* little brother's conſcience it ought intirely to be laid, as having had it in his power to prevent it, and not done it.—In point of law, acceſſories are deemed principles: *Atqui*, he was an acceſſory, and a knowing one; *Ergo*.... I know that page 27, line 14, of the already mentioned *account*, &c, it appears he has, before now, been attacked with ſome ſimilar reproaches, as he ſeems to take notice of them, and attempt to anſwer them: but, very inſignificantly, indeed, does he do it. And, I repeat it, he muſt accuſe no one elſe but himſelf poſitively for the Doctor, his moſt ..... (with all the epithets of endearment, and admiration, which he can think of, or the beſt *Gradus ad Parnaſſum* can afford him) friend's death. For, had I been in his place, inſtead of exhauſting my lungs in "*endeavouring to reaſon* * *medically*

* Page 2, line 7. † Page 20, line 10.

" *with him,*" or, " *to converſe* † *with him on the ſubject* " *of his diſorder in a medical manner*" and thus to ſpend my time in contradicting him, teazing him, and reaſoning with a man who, by his obſtinacy, gave already ſufficient ground to ſuſpect him of not being quite *compos mentis*, (as harſh as this expreſſion may appear to ſome I maintain Dr. GOLDSMITH was not rightly in his ſenſes, when he was thus arguing with his apothecary,) I declare I would have humoured him, given him his way, and talked to him juſt in his own ſtrain, firſt to compoſe him; then retired to my ſhop and ſubſtituted ſome harmleſs, innocent, powder, ſomewhat like to that of Dr. JAMES's in appearance, but more to the purpoſe of his diſorder, and ſent it him. Then, when he had been returned to his ſenſes again, I ſhould have acquainted him with the innocent trick, and reaſoned upon the propriety, or impropriety, of thoſe powders relatively to the caſe he was in. And I am ſure, my dear, my great, my reſpected, my valuable, my ingenious, &c. friend, would have given me his thanks for it; to which alſo would, undoubtedly, have been added thoſe of ALL THE WORLD beſides, which would have made me deemed another little RADCLIFFE for the ſkill, addreſs and art I ſhould have ſhewn to preſerve a *health and life of ſuch* * *conſequence to ſociety*. A feather capable to reflect no ſmall luſtre, I take it, to the cap of a man already ſo proud of being at the head of the famous *inſtitution for the reſurrection of the dead!* I think this might have done as well as the track which the little apothecary has followed. What think ye of it yourſelf, BROTHER . . ?

I BEGIN, notwithſtanding, to be afraid, at laſt, my little brother's bile may be, by this time, quite roufed

* Account page 3. line 31—4. and page 9. line 3.

to

to its zenith. And, indeed, I ſhould not be ſurpriſed at it: for, I confeſs I have not ſpared him much, whenever I could lay hold of him with any propriety. In doing which, I think I was founded; ſince that *able*, that *benevolent*, that *humane*, that *virtuous* *, &c, &c, &c, gentleman has thought himſelf ſo much above the ſcourge of criticiſm, on account of his high connexions with people of letters, as to think he could aſſume the deſpotical rod of cenſure, and, triumphant, drive every thing trembling before him, which had but the look of a QUACK or an EMPIRICK. The papers, for theſe twelve months, and upwards, have been peſtered with nothing ſo much as fulſome compliments of low and ſervile adulation, which he gets inſerted, at his own expence, addreſſed to himſelf, or written concerning him, under the fictitious names of *Meanwell*, *a Friend to the public*, *a Friend to humanity*, *Adviſe*, *Public-applauſe*, and what not. Letters, all ſo coarſly manufactured that, without conſulting the ſeven ſtars, any one may judge from what quarter they come, and that his own ink, pen, paper and deſk (if not even ſomething more beſides) have each given their reſpective aſſiſtance in the compoſition. I ſhould not perhaps have much troubled my head about him, nor his publications, had I not been determined to ſhew him that he is not to expect the ſame meekneſs from all thoſe he pleaſes to lay under his *ferula*; and he muſt expect, from ME at leaſt, if I cannot anſwer for any other, as warm a reception as his attacks ſhall provoke: and had not ſome liberties been taken with my name, by a certain unknown ſham *Adviſe*, in a letter publiſhed under that name, in the MORNING-POST of *Thurſday*

* All expreſſions drawn from the many ſublime qualities with which he is flattered in the letters addreſſed to him, or in which his name is brought.

the

the 28th of December, 1775, No. 990, of which the following is a true and faithful copy.

For the MORNING-POST.

## To a CERTAIN APOTHECARY.

"YOUR ſpleen and rancour againſt a celebrated Fever "Powder is by no means juſtifiable; are there not "Norris's Antimonial Drops, SPILSBURY's DROPS, "and almoſt a thouſand other quack medicines, offered "to the public? and none *merits your attention but a "medicine of eſtabliſhed reputation, and which it is "impoſſible for you to leſſen in the public eſteem.

"YOU are by all accounts I can learn, a very bene-"volent man, and your abilities as an apothecary are "alſo univerſally allowed: when ſo much is granted "you by the public, would it not redound more to your "honour to turn your thoughts to ſome other points of "medicine, than by a ſecond publication to ſtand forth "as an opponent to Dr. James's Powder? Indeed, Sir, "it ſavours too much of ill-nature, pettiſhneſs, and "revenge.

"THE writer neither knows Dr. James, the vender "of his powder, nor you, but only throws out a hint "for you to reflect upon, and ſhall judge of your real "diſpoſition by your future conduct, and which ever "way that turns you ſhall hear again from

Dec. 24, 1775. "ADVISE."

N. B. *Five Shillings* were actually paid to the Printer of the *Morning-Poſt* for the inſertion of the above letter; it is a matter of fact.

* *None merits*, very elegant, and grammatical! The ſpelling, punctuation, capitals, &c, are ſtrictly imitated and copied from the News-paper; as quotations ſhould always be made.

IT

It is difficult for me to judge from what ſide that letter came to the papers; and, though I made all poſſible inquiry, I own I could get no ſatisfactory intelligence on that head. But, a few days after, I received, under a cover, by the *penny-poſt*, and dated from *Bath*, another letter, addreſſed to the printer of the ſame paper, which contained as full a vindication of my character, by an unknown hand, as I could have wiſhed to obtain from any one. However, I did not chuſe, at the time, to ſend it; becauſe I always ſcorned all news-paper *war*, though dignified by this high name, as I do a *boxing* between two black-guards, in the public ſtreets. Beſides, I was, at that very juncture, engaged in the publication of the following pamphlet, which I expected to come out ſo ſoon as towards the middle of January following, had not, as I mentioned it in the beginning of this PREFACE, an unforeſeen accident prevented it; and I had rather reſerve it to make it appear along with it. Therefore, here it is *verbatim*, juſt as it came to my hands.

## To ADVISE.

*On the Subject of his Letter inſerted in the* MORNING-POST *of Thurſday, December* 28, 1775.

"In addreſſing you, Mr. ADVISE, I muſt own I am "rather at a loſs: for, I don't know very well in what "light to conſider you, whether as the hireling of H---e "or as that of Dr. *James*? As you ſing, on the ſame "high key, the praiſes of the two adverſaries, the one "of whom you would be believed to attack, and the "other to defend; which of them has in reality launched "you to bark thus in his favour, and deter the other, is "ſomewhat difficult to diſtinguiſh.---However, after a "little pauſe, I think I have you now, and may let my "judgment incline on one ſide. I think, I may, ſafely "enough, look upon you as the bully of Dr. *James*, or his "agent. My reaſon for ſo thinking, is your endeavouring "to turn the little inſignificant Apothecary's rancour upon "*two* preys, which you ſeem to have picked out for him as "proper bits to aſſuage his rage, and which you offer him

"with intent that, by means of this *double* portion, "he might be prevailed upon to ſpare, and even relin- "quiſh totally, that *one* alone he ſeemed to have fixed "upon. One would imagine, at your behaviour, your "fright had preſented you the animal as a huge mon- "ſter, whoſe bloody jaws you fancied to ſee already "gormandizing, before-hand, on the fore-reliſh of the "prey he longed to devour. And, to ſoothe him, you "ſtroke again the beaſt over, with the velvet-paw of "fulſome and abſurd adulation.---This is what betrays "abſolutely both you and your abettors. Indeed I ſhould "never have ſuſpected the proprietors of Dr. *James's pow-* "*der* capable of rendering themſelves guilty of ſo much pu- "ſillanimity and meanneſs at the time. They muſt be very "*puſillanimous* to betray ſuch ſymptoms of fear, at a "poor inſignificant little whelp yelping at them; and "they muſt be very *mean* to think of ſaving themſelves "by tendering him *two* other victims to dart his venom "upon, and ſatisfy his fury, while they ſtand ſo firm, "as they ſay, in the public eſteem; and while the two "objects, they want to uſe as ſhields, ſtand, if I miſ- "take not, in no worſe light themſelves in the eyes of "the ſame public.---As for my part, though I never "ſaw Mr. SPILSBURY nor Dr. NORRIS, having not "been in London for theſe ten years paſt laſt Auguſt, I "nevertheleſs confeſs myſelf a patient of the former, "and acknowledge to be under the greateſt obligations "to him for the benefit I received, laſt year, from "his drops, in an old inveterate gout, of near fifteen "years ſtanding, which had deprived me of the uſe of "almoſt all my limbs. God be praiſed, I now can take, "without crutches, an agreeable morning's walk all "over my parks, which I had not done for five years "before: and, having already miſſed, ſince my cure, "two of the uſual periodical fits I was accuſtomed to, "I hope, through the exerciſe I regularly take, and "the temperance I faithfully obſerve, according to his

"pre-

" precepts, to have no more of thoſe *unwelcome viſitors*,
" as he calls them.---Therefore, unſolicited by, and
" unknown to, him, (ſince I did not even buy his drops
" from him, but only from his agents in this part of
" the world) I thought it a duty, incumbent on me, to
" riſe and defend a man, who, beſides the goodneſs of
" the medicine he ſells, in ſuch caſes as he recommends
" it for, has again, to intitle him to the favour and
" eſteem of the public equitable in general, and of every
" individual in particular, the qualifications the moſt
" endearing, viz. humanity, generoſity, and tender
" feelings, breathing in every advertiſement. And to
" the ſupport of the prejudice he has inſpired me with
" in his favour, I am happy to hear, from good au-
" thority, that he has poſitively eſtabliſhed upon the
" beſt principles, at his own laboratory, and at his ſole
" expence, a *diſpenſary* for the poor, where, when pro-
" perly recommended, either by their pariſhes, or ſome
" perſons of conſideration, they receive the full benefit
" of his medicine *gratis*, till they are perfectly cured.---
" Such deeds alone are ſufficient in my opinion (which,
" I hope, will be that of every thinking, honeſt and
" humane being) to ſecure him for ever the eſteem of
" the whole nation, and procure him an encouragement
" ſuitable to his deſerts.---All my wiſh now is, for the
" honour of Dr. *Norris*, that ſome of his patients,
" moved with the ſame ſentiments of equity as I am,
" ſhould do him the ſame juſtice I have done Mr. SPILS-
" BURY: and that Dr. *James*, or his agents, for their
" own credit and honour, ſhould diſavow publicly hav-
" ing any concern with you, or in the compoſing of ſo
" ſcandalous a letter, which muſt be looked upon as that
" of a knave and a coward, from whatever quarter it
" came.

" That in future ADVISE be better ADVISED is alſo
" another wiſh of

*Bath, December 30th, 1775.* ADVISER."

By the context of the above letter, whoſe author I candidly own I could not produce, it appears plainly his ſuſpicion falls on the proprietors of *James's powders*, and that he conſiders them as concealed under the name of ADVISE. As for my part, I was not of the ſame opinion; and, even now, I rather incline ſtill to think Mr. ADVISE, like many others of his brethren, has ſprung from the brain of the *certain* APOTHECARY; as it has been obſerved, by the greateſt part of news-paper readers, that it is his general cuſtom, whenever he is brewing ſomething for publication, to get it preceded by ſome ſuch ſimilar hint in the news-papers; that it might appear as if he had but yielded to the wiſhes of the public; and then to get again thoſe publications followed by the greateſt encomiums from ſeveral parts, and under a multitude of fictitious names, as if all the world was proſtrated at his knees to acknowledge their * "*inexpreſſible ſatisfaction*" of his "*very humane and virtuous endeavours*," and give him "*their thanks for*" his *induſtrious* "*and indefatigable efforts* TO RESTORE MEDICAL KNOW-"LEDGE," &c. &c. &c. If ſuch proceedings are not *ſterling* QUACKISMS, in the ſtricteſt ſenſe of the word, and prove not the propriety of the definition of the term QUACK, given in the note of the firſt page of this work, I do not, upon my word, know what may be deemed ſuch, and muſt confeſs, I underſtand not common Engliſh.

But, to ſhew *Public Applauſe*, that I look upon him as no better than a dunce and a blockhead, and that we are better acquainted than he thinks with the literary affairs of the world, I would not miſs this opportunity to obſerve here, *en paſſant*, that if Mr. WESLEY's "*unconſtitutional principles*," as well as "*unhermatic* PRI-"MITIVE PHYSIC, *have been*" no more "*ſufficiently de-*

* Whatever is inſerted here between turned-comas is extracted from a letter ſigned *Public Applauſe*, in the GAZETTEER of *Friday*, June 7th, 1776, No. 14,775.

*feated*,"

"*feated*," the firſt by the "*virtuous patriots*," and the ſecond by *the Certain* APOTHECARY's "*very able and truly* "*learned refutation*" than "*his unſcriptural doctrines by* "*ſome worthy members of the church of England*," they have met with a very poor diſcomfiture, indeed! For, the learned will always pay to Mr. WESLEY's PIETAS OXONIENSIS that due compliment of acknowledging it as the production of the true ſcholar, the polite gentleman, and the ſincere chriſtian; and they would be very ſorry at the ſame time, I believe, to have it thought by the world, that all the beſt arguments which the moſt *worthy members of the church of England* could urge againſt him or his performance, were concentred in the *verba et voces, prætereaque nihil* of that flat and inſipid pretended anſwer of the *beau* N---l who was at that time the public Orator of a certain Univerſity. If that anſwer is what *Public Applauſe* means as the *ſufficient defeat* of Mr. WESLEY's *unſcriptural doctrines*, he is moſt daringly impoſing upon the credulity of ſuch as are not acquainted with the facts of thoſe times, or he LIES, himſelf, indeed, under a very great and moſt egregious miſtake; in whichever caſe I muſt beg leave to tell him, in the name of that reſpectable PUBLIC, from whom he wiſhes us to think he derives his office and commiſſion, that he is no more calculated to act in the character of PUBLIC APPLAUSE than N---l was to act as the PUBLIC ORATOR of a certain VERY reſpectable Univerſity, and to be the VOICE of the TRULY worthy members of OUR CHURCH, or the official SERMONER of a certain legiſlative body, in ſome particular occaſions.---And, indeed, it is a very curious anecdote to obſerve, that in leſs than one month after the expulſion from the univerſity, of the ſix young men, who gave occaſion to Mr. WESLEY to write, he publiſhed the firſt edition of his *Pietas Oxonienſis*, in which the flow of language, the elegance and purity of ſtyle, and harmony of the periods, characteriſe the fine writer, as well as the man of *belles-lettres*; and that in leſs than two months this work went

through

through five or ſix editions, while four or five months elapſed before the heavy, clumſy, and elaborately empty, anſwer of the *Public Orator* came out, clumpeting like upon crutches, printed in large types and wide margins, to make it appear *(true quackiſm)* more bulky than the work itſelf it was intended to annihilate; and that, to make this anſwer (other *quackiſh* trick) enjoy the merit only of a ſecond edition, in the ſpace of two or three months, one good half of the firſt was I am told cancelled and deſtroyed to make room for that ſecond; three parts of which, upon a puſh, might, perhaps, now be found at the printer's warehouſe, unleſs it has undergone the ſame fate as the firſt, and been by its own author offered as a ſacrifice to VULCAN.

Whenever therefore the *certain* APOTHECARY makes henceforth choice * of new *hirelings* to break his own head with the perfuming pan, I hope this anecdote will be a warning to him, to teach him how to chuſe ſuch as are better acquainted with the anecdotes of their times, and the particulars of what they are advancing in their *applauſes*, leſt he ſhould loſe, as in this caſe, all the advantages he expects to derive from their enthuſiaſtically worked up arguments.

This ſame *Public applauſe* congratulates again his *virtuous* IDOL upon his "*ſucceſsful beginning towards the* "*very requiſite reformation of true medical knowledge*, &c", reflections as abſurd, expreſſions as ridiculous as the authors from whoſe pens they proceed; and to which

* Perhaps ſome people, as well as himſelf, will be of opinion that a more lucky choice of ſubjects to exerciſe his talents upon, might as well, and with no leſs propriety, be recommended to him alſo, in future. In which, how far the advice might be right, I will not pretend to be a judge: but, I believe too that, if the name of GOLDSMITH, after the man was dead, proved to this mighty *Goliath* ſo hard and fatal a ſtock to ſtumble upon; it is natural enough to expect he will take heed from it, how he meddles another time with a GOLDSMITH again, were ever another to fall in his way; and eſpecially if the ſecond ſhould happen to be a *living*-one.

I ſhall

I ſhall oppoſe no anſwer of my own to confute them, as it would, of courſe, be ſuſpected of partiality; but repeat only, as much more powerful and weighty, what I find in a very eminet publication intituled *Obſervations* * *on the Duties of a Phyſician, and on the method of proſecuting enquiries in Philoſophy.* The author, who, as I learn by the advertiſement prefixed at the head of the work, was a *medical profeſſor not long ago in one of the univerſities of a neighbouring kingdom* † expreſſes himſelf thus p. 169.---"But not to inſiſt further on arguments that "ſhew, that no conſiderable improvement in the art of "medicine can be expected from phyſicians, while they "are on the preſent footing. I ſhall only obſerve as a "fact, that it appears from the hiſtory of medicine, that "the improvements in it were ſeldom owing to thoſe "phyſicians who valued themſelves upon being re-"gular, ſyſtematic, rational practitioners; nay, what "is more extraordinary, they have been often oppoſed "by them with great keenneſs and acrimony, and ſel-"dom adopted till after a very long ſtruggle. We "could give inſtances of this, in many of the improve-"ments of modern practice, particularly in the caſe of "blifters, opiates, Peruvian-bark, antimony, mercury, "and all the powerful chemical remedies; the inven-"tors or introducers of theſe, from the days of Para-"celſus down to Dr. Ward, have been held by the fa-"culty in contempt and deteſtation. The diſcoveries "of thoſe men who were not regular phyſicians, have not "been examined with that candid impartiality, which "their importance and ſucceſs required: yet from ſuch "very uſeful diſcoveries may ſometimes be expected. "&c. &c."

* This anonymous but elegant performance, divided into *two lectures*, is printed for CADELL in the Strand, 1770.

† IRELAND.

IT is, notwithſtanding, a truly regular-bred phyſician who ſpeaks, in ſo ſtrong a manner, in favour of QUACKS *and their* MEDICINES. True it is, that a little farther he paſſes alſo a due and rational cenſure on ſome "*igno-* "*rant, careleſs and wrong-headed*" ones, "*who profit but* "*little in proportion to what might be expected from ſo very* "*extenſive a practice*" as they have. But, I hope I have ſo ſufficiently declared in this PREFACE that ſuch are not thoſe I mean to defend by this publication, that I may not fear to be taxed with infidelity, in not copying further down from my quoted author; as I myſelf entertain the ſame opinion of thoſe *Patence's* with which the world abounds, and coincide perfectly with him in his ſentiments of the many lies they propagate about their extraordinary talents and ſkill. Therefore, I ſhall conclude this *Preface* of mine by the following words from that of the celebrated Dr. STROTHER which ſtands at the head of his *Practical Obſervations*, printed London 1729, page xxviii. *on the Epidemical Fever*, which reigned in the beginning of this Century.---"*If the art of phyſic* "*is to be advanced, no diſcouragements ought to be given to* "*the undertakers thereof; let each perſon of induſtry draw* "*out his ſcheme, if it fails, he has at leaſt ſhewn his good* "*will, and prevents any other from ſteering in that road;* "*but if he ſucceeds, he merits glory and thanks.*"

As for my part, I am far from thinking, like my ſublime BROTHER QUACK of the Strand, that I deſerve already that *glory* and thoſe *thanks* Dr. STROTHER mentions. I am content if I may only be allowed the name and reputation of *ſtriving* earneſtly for them; and of being in the right road which, by a due continuance of attention to my preſent purſuits, and the profeſſion I have embraced, may conduct me one day to obtain both, from the impartiality and candour of a juſt, diſcerning, and always equitable, PUBLIC.

*July* 22, 1776.

# FREE THOUGHTS ON QUACKS AND THEIR MEDICINES.

## SECTION I.
## THE STATE OF THE QUESTION.

THAT a great deal had been already said, and still should continue to be every day repeated, against QUACKS, * EMPIRICKS, and *their* MEDICINES, is not so much to be won-

* QUACK and EMPIRICK are two words commonly used, which are found in every one's mouth, and often employed one for another; because their discriminative, and radical, meaning is not sufficiently known. I will, therefore, attempt to fix and establish it here.--- Doctor S. JOHNSON gives, at the word QUACK, the *three* following definitions, or rather interpretations, which,

wondered at, as the ſilence it is generally obſerved theſe have obſtinately kept on the ſubject.

in my opinion, coincide ſo perfectly with each other into *one* and the very ſame meaning and idea, that they may perfectly well be claſſed among thoſe we call *diſtinctions without differences*. Here they are. "QUACK, *ſ.* [From "the Verb.] 1, A boaſtful pretender to arts he does "not underſtand. 2, A vain boaſtful pretender to phy- "ſick; one who proclaims his own medical abilities in pub- "lic places. 3, An artful tricking practitioner in phy- "ſick."---To the firſt definition, he quotes *Felton*; to the ſecond, *Addiſon*; and to the third, *Pope*.---I will paſs to the ſame Lexicographer's definition of the word *Empirick*; then, reſume.---"EMPIRICK, *ſ.* [ἐμπειρικος,] A trier or experi- "menter. Such perſons as have no true knowledge of phy- "ſical practice, but venture upon obſervation only."--- To this definition, he quotes *Hooker*.---Now, I will offer my opinion of the true and literal meaning of each of theſe two words, and of the point of difference which characteriſes them. The above three definitions of the word QUACK, which, in fact, are but one, I conſider as vaſtly ſtreched out, quite in the *outré*, and as being, in fact, rather the preſent, actual, falſified acceptation of the word, than its real, original, and firſt intended, meaning; which, according to me, is ſtrictly ſpeaking nothing elſe but a *preconiſer*, a *publiſher*, a *trumpeter*, an *advertiſer*, and is formed by ὁνομαλοπεια, (that is to ſay *imitation*) from the noiſe, or cry, which *ducks* make. Thoſe creatures giving, by that ſort of noiſe, and that perpetual repetition of the ſame cry, notice of their being in ſuch a quarter, the imitative word *quack* has firſt jocularly, I ſuppoſe, and then ironicallly, been given to the *medicine-advertiſers*; becauſe, like thoſe animals, they announce, publiſh, puff, and in ſhort *quack-away* by advertiſements, hand-bills, &c, the medicince they are poſſeſſed of. Hence *quacks* they are ſaid, in other words *publiſhers*, *advertiſers* and nothing more. This *denomination*, as we ſee, does not touch in the leaſt their abilities or inabilities. How then can it imply a *boaſtful pretender to arts*

not

ject. Attacked with the moſt ungenerous, and, I dare to ſay it, fallacious arguments, woven

*not underſtood by the* DENOMINER? How is it, and where does it appear again, that that *art* is *phyſick* in preference to any other art? Therefore I conclude, and I believe with propriety, that any advertiſer whatever, either for *ſhoe-blacking*, *ſhirt-making*, *portrait-painting*, *French-teaching*, *dancing*, &c, &c, is in fact literally, ſtrictly and poſitively, as much a *quack*, as he who advertiſes for remedies. The very firſt, and moſt eminent, member HIMSELF of the faculty, no ſooner advertiſes a book of remedies, or ſtrictures, conſiderations, eſſays, diſſertations, aphoriſms, &c, &c, &c, but HE becomes alſo a true QUACK, *ipſo facto*, in the true, the literal, ſtrict and full ſenſe of the word, as well as THEY againſt whom he fulminates in it.

EMPIRICK, upon examination, will appear no leſs miſrepreſented than the other. Εμπειρικος, they ſay, is its radix.---True.---And εμπειρικος ſignifies, *qui ſolùm ex experientiâ aliquid tractat*; that is to ſay, a man who practiſes from experiments only.---Very well.---Therefore, in my opinion, it is as much as to ſay a man who practiſes nothing but what he is ſure to be good from authentic authority; and whoſe authority is what can never deceive, miſlead or miſguide him; what is always, at all times, and in all matters and caſes, moſt ſurely and ſacredly, what ſhould *ever* SOLELY, be implicitly relied and confidently depended, upon, viz. EXPERIENCE and *repeated experience*. EMPIRICK is then, in ſhort, the man who never adminiſters a remedy to any one, without previouſly being unqueſtionably ſure and convinced of its propriety and ſalutary effects in the caſe it is adapted to. Nor can I find, indeed, how to torture the Greek word, whence *Empirick* is drawn, ſo as to extort that cunning, artful, malicious, and deſignedly diſcrediting *inuendo*, commonly aſcribed to it, that invidiouſly ſtretched-out acceptation of the vulgar, too raſhly and unthinkingly adopted, and now authoriſed, by the ſanction of our learned

woven with that ſkill and addreſs which dazzles the generality of readers, little uſed to the fineſſes

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Lexicographer, which makes it mean *a man who has no true knowledge of phyſical practice, but* VENTURES *upon obſervation only.*---Nay, I go farther, I find myſelf even ſufficiently founded to pronounce there is poſitive inconſiſtency, glaring incompatibility, and downright contradiction in the copulation of the two words *ventures* and *obſervation*; which I prove thus. If the man adminiſter nothing but what he has OBSERVED to be good, I maintain he VENTURES NOTHING. I ſay more, I declare he has greatly the advantage over the *regular-bred phyſician* whoſe buſineſs, character and profeſſion are all theory, and, therefore, all *venturing*, in the ſtrict and literal ſenſe of the word. True it is, that this laſt *requires* ſuperiority, ſublimity, real tranſcendency of genius; abſtract reaſoning, and combinations in the mind, upon any new caſe, new accidents, new diſorders, new chronical, or epidemical, diſeaſes, &c, &c; whereas the other may be totally inept in all this, and unfit to ſtate upon any other diſorder whatever, beſides that only and ſolely for which his remedy is calculated.---But, this is the very circumſtance I wanted to prove, that it is therefore the very *regular-bred phyſician* himſelf, not the *Empirick*, who preciſely is the *real trier*, the TRUE *experimenter*; while the other neither *is*, nor *can* poſſibly be called, *ſuch*, ſince he practiſes nothing but *already* long *tried* and *experimented* remedies. Wherefore I go on, and inſiſt again that a *truly learned* regular-bred phyſician *(rara avis!)* is the only one of courſe who MAY ERR as a man, (for *omnis homo mendax)* and the other CANNOT, he has it not in his power.---I would, therefore, be inclined humbly to recommend Doctor SAMUEL the correcting of this article in the next edition of his Dictionary. For εμπειρικος, EMPIRICK, is ſo far from meaning *trier* and *experimenter*, (words equal to, and ſynonimous with, *worker in the dark*, *uncertain*, and *ignorant*) that, on the contrary, it ſignifies poſitively quite the reverſe in the Greek language, where it ſtands for *ſciens, aptus, uſu, praxi atque experientiâ peritus*; that is to ſay, knowing,

finesses of the art of Logic, they have been made an object of ridicule by some, and represented as the most dangerous sort of people by others; as a public nuisance, as a set of common empoisonners: and not one of them has had spirit enough to take up the pen in his own defence, as well as that of the fraternity. It is high time, therefore, this should be done: and, without boasting of more abilities for the task than my predecessors, or cotemporary fellows, of the Empirical College, I will, for the sake of TRUTH alone, take the liberty to offer here a few candid, ingenuous, and unadorned reflections, on the critical point which divides us from the self-calling regular-bred physicians, and examine whether or not we deserve the scurrility of their language in the cruel manner they exert it upon us.

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knowing, able, learned, experimented by use and constant practice. Is not this, *to be* SURE *of what one does?* Who can, therefore, be more trusty now for a patient, more likely to comfort him, to revive and reanimate his dejected spirits, to dissipate at his approach the gloomy thought of a threatening dissolution, to remove the terrors of an advancing death, and recall the two greatest supports of the afflicted, and best assistants of the physicians, FAITH and HOPE? ..... If you consult your own heart now, you will soon find there such answer as I can wish to hear, and which is the most obvious.

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But, before going any farther, it will not be much amiſs, perhaps, to ſettle the reciprocal rights, privileges and pretenſions of the contending parties. Our adverſaries ſay that *Hippocrates* pronounces phyſick to be the nobleſt of all arts whatſoever. That it was formerly in ſuch a repute, eſteem and veneration, as to make the inventors, or improvers, of it be ſtiled *ſons* and *hands* of *Gods*, and often conſidered as Gods themſelves. All this is certainly true. Such was, indeed, the opinion of the inhabitants of this world in the firſt ages of it, when mankind, by the neglect of temperance and exerciſe, having began to be the prey of various unknown and unuſual pains, ſufferings and miſeries, obtained unexpectedly relief by the hands of ſome *few* adepts who adminiſtered them a *few* remedies which chance and accident had thrown in their way, and which their ſagacity and diſcernment had pointed out to them how to apply. Nay, even among the Chriſtians the ſame opinion nearly prevailed; ſince, as we find it in St. Auguſtin, * they thought the poſſeſſor of the art of phyſick muſt then be inſpired. "*Corporis medicina (ſi altius rerum origines* "*repetas) non invenitur unde ad homines*

* *De Civ. Dei,*

"*manare*

"*manare potuerit, niſi à Deo.*" Hence they conclude that THEY ALONE ought to be empowered with the adminiſtration of medicines, to the excluſion of any one elſe whatever, becauſe they will be thought to have, at a great expence and coſt, acquired great knowledge, ſkill and abilities, in the theoretical part of the art, in ſchools and univerſities. But if, to enhance the difficulty, ſuperiority and ſublimity of that very art, they think it neceſſary to alledge that *Eſculapius*, the inventor of phyſick, never arrived before he died to the perfection of it; and that his ſucceſſor *Hyppocrates*, being himſelf come to a very old age, was not aſhamed of confeſſing the ſame in an epiſtle to *Democritus*. If they are not againſt admitting likewiſe that, even now, it requires an infinite deal of pains, labour, expence, trials, experiments and time, before a man can be rightly, and duly, qualified for the taſk, for a very good reaſon they care not to mention, and which I will produce for them, viz. the field of diſeaſes is now become ſo extenſive, and ſo far beyond what it ever was before, that every one of them, ſingly conſidered, with its nature, cauſes, times, tendencies, ſymptoms, diagnoſtics and prognoſtics, &c. might perhaps well occupy the whole life of any

any man, and ſometimes that of ſeveral men ſucceſſively, before its proper, and truly efficacious, antidotes are found out and diſcovered. If all this, I ſay, be the caſe, does not this moſt evident concluſion reſult, that the man who turns * all his thoughts on the ſtudy of one ſole diſeaſe, its cauſe, ſource, principle and antidote, and attends to no other whatever, is infinitely more likely to diſcover a true and efficacious remedy againſt it, than thoſe who, forced to practiſe on a larger ſcale, cannot beſtow a ſufficient time upon any in particular, to inveſtigate the true principles of them all, and apply the proper preſervative to a threatening diſorder, or reſtorative to a determined one? Is it not obvious that the poſſeſſor of a certain particular medicine againſt one ſingle particular diſorder and its kindred appendages, (or, as you may call it,

* It is to ſuch highly meritorious diſpoſitions, in the juſtly celebrated Doctor ARMSTRONG, of Soho-Square, we are every year indebted for the preſervation of thouſands of children, who, before him and the truly laudable inſtitution of his DISPENSARY, uſed to fall a ſacrifice to the ignorance and *ineptia* of their mothers and nurſes, in the treating of the diſorders incumbent to that tender age, in which, (eſpecially among the lower claſs of people) the dear innocent creatures are left to the mercy of their erroneous directions, their abſurd adminiſtration, to the evident danger of the poor infants' lives, and the decreaſe of the *human ſpecies*.

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conſaguine diſorders) he who fabricates and prepares no other ſort during all his life time, ought certainly to be more verſed in the manutention, more exact, more ſcrupulous and more ready, in the preparation and adminiſtration of it; than thoſe who, from morning to night, are continually employed in compoſing hundreds of various ſpecies, made up of many different, oppoſite and incompatible drugs, for various diſorders, and in the greateſt hurry, without being able to allow themſelves the time of reflecting to avoid miſtakes in the materials, and errors in the doſing, or in the mode of adminiſtering of them?

On what principle, therefore, do the ſelf-calling *regular-bred* phyſicians ground their pretended prerogatives, and their ſuperiority over us *venders* of medicines? Did not that ſublime art, they ſo much boaſt of, begin preciſely in the very manner that we now do exerciſe it? What were in their times thoſe famous phyſicians we find ſo honourably recorded in hiſtory? Were they *regular-bred* for treating of all ſorts of known or unknown, poſſible and impoſſible diſorders? Or, like us, were they merely and ſolely poſſeſſed each of ſome particular remedy againſt certain parti-

cular diſeaſes; which poſſeſſion, originated from an accidental diſcovery, or obſervation and combination, and then properly applied, had rendered them renowned enough to make them be ſent for, and unboundedly rewarded, when, luckily for them, the malady they knew how to cure befel ſome great perſonages of their times? Such, notwithſtanding, was the caſe of *Philippus*, the phyſician of *Alexander*; that of *Timocleas*, and *Nicias*, who were thoſe of *Pyrrhus*; ſuch was that of *Dioſcorides*, who was the phyſician of *Antony* and *Cleopatra*; ſuch was in ſhort that of *Archagatus*, the firſt alien who, on account of his reputation that way, was made free of Rome, &c, &c. Formerly, one ſingle phyſician did not take upon himſelf, as they do now, to ſyſtematiſe and diſſert boldly upon all ſorts of diſordered habits of the body; but, having made a ſerious ſtudy of one particular diſorder and of the antidote againſt it, practiſed no other branch of the healing art.

In its infancy, therefore, it reſults that phyſick was in its purer ſtate. For, as there was no ſpeculation yet, and as every medicine, which ever was then adminiſtered, was ſo upon ſure grounds and an undoubted knowledge of its effects, ſo there were no riſks run,

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nor experiments made, by the *ſons* of *gods* of that period, as there is now by thoſe of our days; and no one was by thoſe *ſacred hands* killed, as at preſent, *ſecundum artem*. It is to the corruption of the times, to the putrefaction of the principles of ſociety, to the inſatiable thirſt after riches, to the rapacious hungrineſs, the ravenous greedineſs, the watchful voraciouſneſs of the few cunning of all ages, in endeavouring to avail themſelves of the dull and ſleepy indolence of the ignorant multitude, that we are indebted for that craftineſs which is now found reigning among the moſt uſeful branches of arts and ſciences, of all kinds, and for the impenetrable veil of myſtery with which their *firſt* poſſeſſors never fail to obſcure them, as ſoon as they begin to be ſenſible of the extent of their utility.

Is it a generous, candid, and diſintereſted love of mankind, and the preſervation of its members, as you affect to profeſs it by words, which induces *you*, gentlemen of the faculty, to decry "*all quacks, from Æſculapius to the pre-*"*ſent, either as ignorant, or ſelf-convicted im-*"*poſtors*, advertiſing daily lies, whether mount-"ed on ſtages, or *riding in chariots?*" Is it the true knowledge of the dignity of your profeſſion, and a ſuperiority of underſtanding in

its practice, which make you rail so vehemently against that pretented "*evil spirit of* "*quackery*," which, you say, "*is gone forth*," and "*has possessed all orders of men among us*," and which you would like "*to lay, if you could,* "*together with every Demon of superstition and* "*error, that* you may thereby "*restore the world* "*to truth and nature?*"—No, indeed.—No such purity of sentiments exists in you, more than in any other of the incorporated private companies. Lucre, gain, and profit, are the true and only motives which inspire you that flow of anathemas you bestow so lavishly upon us. The fear that the cure of diseases should become easy, and might be performed by every one at a small, or no expence, and thus oblige you to lay down *your* own *chariots*, erected on, and supported by, the credulity of the ignorant, though wealthy, multitude, is the reason why you foam in all your writings, your consultations, and private conversations, against the venders of medicines, ready prepared *to cure* what is not in your power even *to attempt attenuating*. Oh! *auri sacra fames! quid non mortalia pectora cogis?*

But let us examine, without partiality, the fact as it really stands. What are, strictly speaking, those advertised medicines? Are they

they a compound of horſes dung and cows piſs; or, as the more polite, though no leſs contemptuous phraſe, is, a mixture of brick duſt and water, prepared by a parcel of dirty ignorant coblers, ſcavengers, and chimney-ſweepers, or ſomething worſe if poſſible, as ſome would inſinuate it; and by them retailed to the public as a ſpecific to operate wonders, and work miracles? NO: IT IS QUITE THE REVERSE.—Firſt, they are moſtly compoſitions which unite the *exterior* neatneſs and elegance, with the power, energy and efficacy *interiorly* concentered. Secondly, they are the fruit of the labours, ſtudies, and experience of ſome *really learned* phyſician of the ſo much boaſted *regularly-bred* claſs; who, after having himſelf uſed and adminiſtered it a long while, with a never-failing ſucceſs, at laſt *ſometimes* gives it to a friend, *or* leaves it in his family; in either of which caſes it generally becomes what is called a *family-receipt*, and often keeps ſo for the beſt part of a century, before it emerges into the world, and is advertiſed as a *noſtrum* againſt thoſe very diſorders in particular, for the relief, attenuation, or radical cures, of which, they originally were calculated by their firſt inventors and fabricators. Such is, notwithſtanding, in

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fact, the real origin of moſt of the advertiſed medicines which, at this preſent time, are in any repute.—Others, and many they are, originated from thoſe venerable members of monaſteries * who, far remote from the cares, the vanity

* Witneſs the famous ROGER BACON, an Engliſh Franciſcan friar of the 13th century, diſtinguiſhed, on account of his vaſt learning and deep penetration in aſtronomy, chymiſtry, mathematicks, &c, by the name of *Doctor Mirabilis*.—I have now in my poſſeſſion a very old book, intituled *The Triumphant Chariot of Antimony*, written by one BASIL VALENTINE, a monk, of the order of St. Bennet, who, from the context of his treatiſe, appears whatever may be otherwiſe thought concerning his extravagant enthuſiaſm in favour of the *philoſophical ſtone*, to have been a very great chymiſt.—The *bark*, the proper name of which is the *Peruvian-bark*, but better known to the public by that of *Jeſuit's-bark*, is in fact owing for its diſcovery, to the ſociety of that religious order, and was made by mere chance and accident. The ſtory is, as well as I can remember, for I am obliged here to quote again from memory, (and a very treacherous one it is ſometimes in matters of mere hiſtorical facts;) the ſtory, I ſay, is, That one of them, who was ill of an ague, being dry, and near a pond, drank of that water and was cured. Some how or other, a tree which was near the pond, and hanging over it ſo as to drop its leaves in it at the time of fall, or projected its roots into it, I am not ſure which, was ſuſpected of impregnating the waters of that pond with its own virtues. Trials were made, and the tree found guilty of thoſe qualities which ever ſince proved ſo ſalubrious to mankind; for which crime it was condemned to be, ITSELF, and all thoſe of IT's OWN SPECIES, ſtripped of its bark for ever to come afterwards; a ſentence which has never failed ſince to be carefully put in execution. And the *Jeſuits* having been the firſt diſcoverers, preparers, venders, and importers of that medicinal ingredient, it went by their name, under

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vanity, and the diſſipations of a corrupted age, bind themſelves voluntarily to employ the happy leiſure of their ſtill, calm, and peaceful retreat or ſolitude, and devote their time, their labour and their abilites, to ſtudy

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which it is better known than by its real one.---AQUA MELISSÆ, originally called EAU-DES-CARMES, is a moſt admirable cordial of very great and deſerved repute, compoſed by the members of that religious order at Paris where it firſt originated, and whence it is circulated all over Europe.---In 1757, one Friar COME of the order of the FEUILLANS in the *Thuilleries* at *Paris*, invented an inſtrument called *Lithotôme-caché*, for the operation of the ſtone in the bladder; and this ſkilful monk performed ſeveral times this operation in preſence of the faculty, and the moſt eminent maſters and profeſſors of the ſchool of ſurgeons at Paris, with a dexterity and ſafety which did him infinite honour, and procured, for himſelf and his new inſtrument, the greateſt applauſe and intire approbation of thoſe gentlemen. See the French reviews of that and the following years.---Such are in epitome the proofs I can produce, from memory only, of my aſſertion concerning monks giving themſelves up with a meritorious application, and a noted ſucceſs, to the theoretical ſtudy, and the practical art, of phyſick and ſurgery. Were I to make good thoſe aſſertions, I would dip into ſuch proper places for facts, and authenticated facts, as would ſoon be found undeniable; and I would take care to be ſo particular, as to leave no room for the moſt illiterate in thoſe matters to doubt what would be laid before him; which method would, at the ſame time, not fail, I dare ſay, to be productive of a great many more examples. But many of my readers being themſelves acquainted with the facts I have quoted, and a great number living who have been eye-witneſſes of ſome of the circumſtances referring to the laſt I have related, I hope it will help to give me credit for the truth of what I advance from report only; though, I muſt confeſs, it is ſuch a one as I may, with confidence, rely on.

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the art of repairing the damages which vices, intemperance, debauch, and luxury, bring daily on the conſtitution and lives of thoſe they left behind them in the world. There, free and undiſturbed, thoſe pious votaries give themſelves up to all ſorts of ſtudies and avocations, according to the natural turn and diſpoſition of their minds; and there is no art, no ſcience, and we might almoſt ſay, I believe, even no trade now extant, but what is highly indebted for its improvement to the deep meditations, trials, combinations, reſearches, experiments, and long practice of thoſe cloiſteral ſolitaries. Such, therefore, of theſe as ever did, or now do give themſelves up to the ſtudy of phyſick, and daily practiſe it in their infirmaries, with an averred ſucceſs, are not certainly *regular-brèd* phyſicians; but, can one ſay, however, that they are leſs learned in the art than thoſe who pique themſeves upon that vain, that frivolous, that inſignificant denomination? Who will dare to alledge it; to advance ſuch an abſurdity? I ſay, they do really, juſtly, and poſitively poſſeſs (without the ſanction of an univerſity, and without the futile ceremony of a regular, unintelligible courſe of lectures, often as badly digeſted as they are negligently attended) every

every thing which ought to conſtitute the true phyſician, and are SUCH in fact, while the other is only *nominatim*. What comes, therefore, from ſuch hands cannot be queſtioned with reſpect to the merit of the compoſition, the virtue of the ingredients it is made of, and its real power and efficacy.—A few alſo, it muſt not be denied, may be the diſcovery of ſome illiterate fellow, who could neither read nor write; a ſhepherd, a plough-boy, a fiſherman, &c. But, in this caſe, the great book of nature ſtanding open before their eyes, why ſhould they not make uſe of it that way, as well as a *Ferguſon* did in aſtronomy? And why, if it ſhould ſo happen, that chance offer them a vegetable, a mineral, an animal, or a ſpring, which, by an unexpected accident, they diſcover to be inveſted with a certain power or virtue; why, I ſay, ſhould they not be allowed to make uſe of it, when they themſelves, or their friends, their neighbours, or their relations, want to be relieved of the ſame, or a ſimilar, evil they have found it had the power to remove? True it is, in this caſe, as it will not fail to be objected, that ſuch virtues, erroneouſly doſed, improperly adminiſtered, and injudiciouſly prepared, may do a deal of miſchief inſtead of good. There-

fore, it will very readily be agreed to. But, at the ſame time, it muſt be as impartially anſwered, that thoſe crude remedies never do, nor can, in that imperfect ſtate, come to the knowledge of the public at large, and that they always keep within the narrow circle of a few individuals in a village or two only, as the very illiterateneſs and poverty of their diſcoverers, or poſſeſſors, is always a ſure guard enough, and a pretty inſurmountable barrier, againſt their ſpreading by means of advertiſements. Therefore, whenever any of this ſort arrive to that pitch, it muſt be through the channel and medium of ſome man of abilities and judgment in thoſe matters, who conſequently never fails, immediately and previouſly, before he riſques his name, his reputation and his fortune, to make ſuch trials, eſſays, and experiments, as will aſcertain to a degree the dangerous, the doubtful, and the uſeful qualities of the new remedy; and, THEN, it becomes as ſure and ſafe a one as any other whatever, of never ſo old ſtanding, and of aſcertained, or acknowledged, virtues.

SUCH, however, or nearly ſuch, are the ſources whence originate the advertiſed medicines, which ſo much excite the rancour, and ſtir

ſtir up the bile, of our proud, haughty, vain and ſuperb adverſaries. Now, I will aſk an impartial and candid reader, to tell me ingenuouſly, what he really thinks in his heart of their affected declamations? Muſt it not look highly laughable, not to ſay abſurd to the greateſt degree, to every one who hears, or reads them, to ſee how the bullets infallibly and naturally retort upon them, ſince it is proved that none of thoſe medicines, which make the object of their ſpleenful clamours, now exiſt, but come directly, or indirectly, from themſelves.

To ſupport this allegation, a few examples perhaps will not be thought out of ſeaſon. Therefore, leſt I ſhould be ſuſpected of too much partiality, being myſelf a proprietor, I ſhall not here inveſtigate the pedigrees of my own medicine, but take notice only of ſome of the moſt reputable among thoſe which, with reſpect to the cenſures and ſuſpicious *innendos* thrown on them by the faculty, ſtand under the ſame predicament as I have endeavoured to remove and to deſtroy.

In the *London Diſpenſatory* we find the *receipt* of a certain *balſam traumaticum* among

the pharmaceutical preparations therein approved of, recommended and deſcribed. Now, would our readers imagine that this very medicine is nothing but a certain *Beaume du Commandeur*, of French extraction, known in different countries, and ſometimes in the very ſame place, under the various names of *Balſamum Perſicum*, *Balſam of Berne*, *Wade's Balſam*, *Friar's Balſam*, *Turlington's Balſam*, &c, &c? Would one believe that, before our learned and wrangling gentlemen gave it that honourable ſanction of admitting it among their own compoſitions, and thus, as it were, to grant it letters of naturalization, this one and the ſame medicine had been, in different parts of the world, *quackly* kept as a ſecret in ſeveral private hands, and under various denominations, for a great number of years: till, at laſt, its real merit, and acknowledged virtues and qualities engaged one *Pomet* (a French doctor) to give the receipt of it in his *Hiſtoire des Drogues*, whence the authors and reviſers of our *London Diſpenſatory* handed it out, to dignify it with a place in their Sanctuary? And again, would one think it credible that, though thus adopted by the *regular-bred* phyſicians, and ſo publicly known as the *Diſpenſatory* makes it, this very medicine

dicine ſhould continue ſtill however, under the diſguiſe of very few and inſignificant alterations, to be advertiſed and ſold here in London by two different proprietors, under the diſtinct, and above-mentioned, names of *Turlington's* and *Friar's Balſams*, and be notwithſtanding in fact, nothing elſe but the *Balſamum Traumaticum* of the ſhops? If that of the ſhops be a good and recommendable medicine, can that of the venders be a bad one? Our reaſon, not our prejudice, is to guide us in this, and anſwer the queſtion.

BUT, this is not all. The ſame caſe has happened to another French *Elixir* of the invention of one LEMORT *, a French ſurgeon. The

* LEMORT's name ought, in my opinion, to be written in golden letters, and never pronounced but with reverence, was it for no other reaſon but the invention of this remedy, though he was alſo of a vaſt many others of great merit, ſuch, for example, as the *elixir menſtruale*, the *Jeſuit's drops*, another very valuable medicine, the *elixir anodynum*, the *bezorticum*, &c, &c.--Dr. QUINCY was the means of bringing his *elixir aſthmaticum* into repute in this country, by the encomiums he paſſed on it, joined to his obſervations on the compoſition; for he did not heſitate to ſay, that "*there is not any compoſition of "our ſhops to be compared to it in the intention it is ordered.*" --The college of phyſicians did not give it a place in their *diſpenſatory*, till the laſt reformation of it: in doing which,

The name he had given it, at the time, was *Elixir Aſthmaticum*. Now, it ſtands adopted, in

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which, they have thought proper to throw out of its compoſition, the *honey*, the *liquorice*, and the *ſalt of tartar*. But, if they mean this little inſignificant ſuppreſſion as an improvement worthy of their *High Mightineſſes*, I ſay that, in my ſimple quality of *brother quack*, I could propoſe another, of ſome more conſequence than that trivial one of their own invention; and, not to be accuſed of making too much of it, here it is at once.---They have ordered rectified ſpirit of wine. This, I allow, is the proper *menſtruum* for the oil and camphire; but, by no means, is it a proper one for the extract of opium; which, on account of its gummy nature, cannot be ſo compleatly diſſolved in ſpirit as it would be in water: as a proof of which, I bring that they themſelves have directed the crude opium to be digeſted in water, in order to make the *thebaic extract*, or *ſtrained opium*, uſed in this very *elixir*. Therefore, the way I would propoſe, to make this compoſition, would be thus. Diſſolve the camphire, benzoine and oil, in a pint of ſpirit of wine: and, the *extract* of opium, by itſelf, in a pint of water. Let them ſtand twenty-four hours, then mix together; and, after ſtanding twenty-four hours more, filter. By this mean, the ingredients will be infinitely better ſuſpended. *Fabricando fit faber*, ſays the old adage; and true it is enough: for, practice alone and careful examens, in repeated operations, can produce real improvements. Not to ſpeculation indeed, but to various trials, eſſays, and aſſiduous labours am I indebted for the *few* improvements I have made in ſome compoſitions.---This valuable remedy is the moſt counterfeited of any among all the advertiſed medicines. And the reaſon is obvious. A good many individuals, it is hoped, die in an old age, who have been prudent and cautious enough, during their life, to avoid thoſe irregularities which procure the *ſcurvy*, the *gout*, the *pox*, the *rheumatiſms*, &c, &c. But none, in this *happy* iſland, where

dicine ſhould continue ſtill, however, under the diſguiſe of very few and inſignificant alterations, to be advertiſed and ſold here in London by two different proprietors, under the diſtinct, and above-mentioned, names of *Turlington's* and *Friar's Balſams*, and be notwithſtanding in fact, nothing elſe but the *Balſamum Traumaticum* of the ſhops? If that of the ſhops be a good and recommendable-medicine, can that of the venders be a bad one? Our reaſon, not our prejudice, is to guide us in this, and anſwer the queſtion.

But, this is not all. The ſame caſe has happened to another *Elixir* of the invention of one Jacob Lemort *, a very great chymiſt, and Doctor of phyſic of the univerſity of Leyden. The

* Lemort's name ought, in my opinion, to be written in golden letters, and never pronounced but with reverence, was it for no other reaſon but the invention of this remedy, though he was alſo of a vaſt many others of great merit, (as may be ſeen in his chymical and medical works printed in quarto, at Leyden, 1696) ſuch, for example, as the *elixir menſtruale*, the *Jeſuit's drops*, another very valuable medicine, the *elixir anodynum*, the *bezorticum*, &c, &c.---Dr. Quincy was the means of bringing his *eſſentia aſthmatica* into repute in this country, by the encomiums he paſſed on it, joined to his obſervations on the compoſition; for, he did not heſitate to ſay, that "*there is not any compoſition of our ſhops to be "compared to it in the intention it is ordered.*" ---The college of phyſicians did not give it a place in their



*diſpenſatory*

The name he had given it, at the time, was *Eſſentia Aſthmatica*. Now, it ſtands adopted, in

*diſpenſatory*, till the laſt reformation of it: in doing which, they have thought proper to throw, out of its compoſition, the *honey*, the *liquorice*, the *tincture of ſaffron*, and the *ſalt of tartar*. But, if they mean this ſuppreſſion as an improvement worthy of their *High Mightineſſes*, I ſay that, in my ſimple quality of *brother quack*, I could propoſe another, which ſeems to me of no leſs conſequence than theirs, and which, I am ſurpriſed, to have eſcaped their notice. Here it is.---They have ordered rectified ſpirit of wine. This, I allow, is the proper *menſtruum* for the oil and camphire; but, by no means, is it a proper one for the extract of opium; which, on account of its gummy nature, cannot be ſo compleatly diſſolved in that ſpirit, as it would be in water; as a proof of which, I ſay that they themſelves have directed the crude opium to be digeſted in water, in order to make the *thebaic extract*, or *ſtrained opium*, uſed in this very *elixir*. Therefore, the way I would propoſe, to make this compoſition, would be thus. Diſſolve the camphire, benzoine and oil, in a pint of ſpirit of wine: and, the *extract* of opium, by itſelf, in a pint of water. Let them ſtand twenty-four hours, then mix together; and, after ſtanding twenty-four hours more, filter. By this mean, the ingredients will be infinitely better ſuſpended. *Fabricando fit faber*, ſays the old adage; and true it is enough: for, practice alone and careful examens, in repeated operations, can produce real improvements. Not to ſpeculation, indeed, but to various trials, eſſays, and aſſiduous labours, am I indebted for the *few* improvements I have made in ſome compoſitions.---This valuable remedy is the moſt counterfeited of any, among all the advertiſed medicines. And the reaſon is obvious. A good many individuals, it is hoped, die, in an old age, who have been prudent and cautious enough, during their life, to avoid thoſe irregularities which procure the *ſcurvy*, the *gout*, the *pox*, the *rheumatiſms*, &c, &c. But none, in this *happy* iſland, where

in our Diſpenſatory, under that of *Elixir Paregoricum*, or, *Paregoric Elixir*; that is to ſay, emollient,

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where the air is not the moſt ſalubrious in all Europe, ever die, at any age, and in any condition, from the KING to the beggar, but had more than once *coughs* and *colds*, and ſome of their appendages. Whence comes the temptation, in the breaſt of ſome people, who envy the apparent profits they think the proprietors of advertiſed medicines reap of their compoſitions, and who have none of their own to advertiſe, hence, I ſay, ariſe their deſire of venturing the ſame carrier; to do which they think none fitter than that, the merit of which is moſt unqueſtioned, and the patients for which are more plentiful. Theſe preciſely are the advantages which attend LEMORT's *elixir*, and every one is willing to have the ſale of it, without ſeeming to rob one another, nor propoſing an old and well known remedy. Then, they new chriſten it, and diſguiſe it with various colours; ſome put Spaniſh liquorice, to make it black; red ſaunders, to make it red; ſaffron, to make it yellow, &c, &c. Others, to diſguiſe it ſtill better, put a good doſe of the reſin of benzoine, or the *balſam* of *Tolu*: the effect of either of which is, that when you put a tea-ſpoonful of it in a glaſs of water for uſe, according to preſcription, it turns that water white like milk, conformably (as we have obſerved ſomewhere elſe in this pamphlet) to the natural property of all reſines and reſinous ſubſtances.---So, that the buyer is really taken in, and fancies he has purchaſed ſome new, more efficacious remedy than any of previous exiſtence; while it is no other than that which he could have got next door, or that other again he had yeſterday, from another adverti ſer. But, after all, of WHAT conſequence is that deception to the public? Of NONE, to be ſure. If this remedy be the ſame as that other which belongs to the other proprietor, it muſt produce the ſame good effects. Thus the cuſtomers indeed divide. It is true again. But *that* the elder proprietor only, and no one elſe, is hurt: becauſe

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emollient, ſoftening, ſoothing, or comforting; from παρηγορια *ſolatium, delectatio, oblectamentum*, or παρηγορικος *conſolandi, ſeu leniendi, vim habens.* And it is not improper to acquaint the public, that the ingredients it is compoſed of, are ſo perfectly conform to the denomination of the context, ſo benign and effectual in colds, coughs, aſthmas, conſumptions and any ſuch other obſtructions of the lungs and breaſt, that all thoſe various remedies, daily advertiſed by private perſons, or the beſt and moſt reputable chymiſts and doctors, ſuch as ———'s *balſam of honey, chymical drops, lozenges, eſſence of colt's foot*, &c, &c, &c, are nothing elſe but this very *elixir* combined with the inſignificant addition of ſome unneceſſary drug, to diſguiſe it and alter its form, whence they take the name they give it. This ſpecies of fraud they practiſe with no other view but to have an opportunity to

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was not this newly advertiſed medicine the ſame, and of courſe as good, as his; thoſe who purchaſe the new would have purchaſed the old, and his now ſinking profits would have been, by ſo much, greater. But what is all this to the public? Nothing, nothing; abſolutely nothing at all. An old axiom of the *Jus Romanum* was; *Conſulere utilitati publicæ, prima Lex eſto.* Let this law always be that alſo of our nation, and we ſhall ſoon find the benefit of it, by being more happy, *in fact*, than we are *in ſpeculation.*

publiſh,

publiſh, with ſucceſs to their purpoſe, a well-known and ſafe remedy, better than which none they can find, as if it were a *noſtrum* of their own invention. A circumſtance, or rather a ſcheme, which, by the bye, we muſt know, attends moſt of the remedies of acknowledged and authenticated merit and virtues.

In the laſt century, an imprudent uſe of the *Peruvian bark* having been attended with bad conſequences, had brought this valuable remedy into diſeſteem, diſrepute, and diſgrace, ſo that it was intirely rejected from the practice of phyſic, and no one would any more have any thing to do with it. About the ſame time, one Sir *Robert Talbot*, an Engliſh gentleman who reſided at Paris, had acquired ſuch a prodigious reputation, on account of the ſurpriſing ſucceſs he met with, in his practice, by the adminiſtration of a certain medicated wine of his own preparation, that Lewis XIV ordered a large ſum of money to be offered to Sir *Robert*, for his ſecret; that ſo ſingular a remedy might not be loſt, but, on the contrary, communicated to the public, and become ſerviceable to the community. The purchaſe was made: and THEN, what did the ſo famous medicine prove to be? Nothing

but the poor old diſcarded *bark* itſelf. And where, therefore, did the merit lie? Was it in a different, a new, a more ſenſible, more rational mode of preparing this vegetable, a method better ſuited to its conſtituent qualities? No: not at all. What then? In the MERE method of managing it, the ſole proceſs of adminiſtration. By this mean, the medicine retrieved its loſt character: by this mean it has kept it up, and preſerved it, to this day, to the great benefit of mankind. Could not this be the caſe of many pretended *quack* medicines? No doubt of it. For, in fact, had not the truly commendable, the much worthy of imitation, generoſity of the French Monarch ſtept forth in this circumſtance, and had this remedy been kept ſecret in the hands of Sir *Robert* himſelf, and then in thoſe of his lineal deſcendants, or ſome of his friends, the ſucceſs had certainly not diſcontinued to attend the uſe of the remedy; nor, perhaps, had either the bark itſelf diſcontinued to be, at this very time, condemned as a dangerous, a pernicious, even as a down-right poiſonous, drug.

ONE example more, of freſher date, and I have done.—When the late Marſhal SAXE commanded the French army in Germany, during the war before laſt, a certain *Keyſer*, of German

German extraction, but ſurgeon to a French marching regiment, finding that almoſt the whole army was fired with the poiſon of the venereal diſorder, and that the long proceſs, uſually obſerved by the faculty in ſuch caſes, could never do with ſoldiers and officers, who were inceſſantly haraſſed by the fatigues of war, thought it his duty to contrive a method for contracting all the beneficial qualities and properties of mercury in ſo ſmall and commodious a compaſs as to be adminiſtered to his numerous patients, and make them reap all the advantages of it, without any interfering with the duties of their profeſſion. He luckily, then, invented ſome pills (which he denominated *Dragées*) by means of which he performed the moſt ſurpriſing cures, and ſaved the lives of many hundreds of his Sovereign's ſubjects from the knife of corrupted venery, and ſince acquired, before his death, a conſiderable fortune in Paris, during the following peace. Theſe pills found alſo their way into this country in his life time, and ſince have continued to be ſold and prepared in England, upon the principles of their author, by the hands of the ſame perſon, who firſt imported them: and, if we judge by the uninterrupted ſeries of advertiſements, which, for theſe twelve or fourteen years paſt at leaſt, have daily been inſert-

ed in our news-papers, we may readily ſuppoſe they muſt have met * with not very indifferent a ſucceſs, thus to encourage their advertiſer to keep up ſuch a certain expence.—Now, here is, as we ſee, another † *quack* medicine, which is the fruit of the invention of a *regular-bred* Doctor, and is patronized by another of the ſame ſtamp, in our days, and

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* I find theſe pills have come to ſuch a height of reputation, that they are ſent even into Ireland and America. Theſe pills are made, I know, of calcined mercury. Dr. FALCK, in his late *treatiſe on the medical qualities of mercury*, page 65, has been rather ſevere upon them. As for my part, I am fairly of opinion, that they really have more merit than he is pleaſed to allow them. VAN SWIETEN, phyſician to the court of Vienna, and Sir JOHN PRINGLE, here, after him, have both, it is true, introduced the ſolution of ſublimate in brandy or molaſſes ſpirits among the ſoldiers, as KEYSER did his *Dragées*; and I believe it was found better than theſe. This is the only reaſonable argument, if it be one, which can be made againſt the Frenchman's pills, as liquids always mix in the blood better than ſolids.

† Is not GLASS's *Magneſia Alba*, a preparation of that earth, moſt exquiſitely ſuperior to any of thoſe we had before, and are ſtill found, in the ſhops. However, though of the greateſt merit, none of thoſe ſhops will ever uſe it; they continue to ſell their impure one; and the author of this elegant purification was, nevertheleſs, a regular-bred ſurgeon, who lived and died in the heart of one our moſt celebrated univerſities hardly noticed, or ever employed, even in his profeſſion.---He was an advertiſer of medicines, therefore a *quack*, therefore deſpiſed by his brethren.---But, in compenſation for this, he was, as ever he will be, bleſſed by many a mother, for the ſaving of her dear infant from the claws of death.

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under our own eyes.—The firſt had been regularly bred to the buſineſs, ſince he belonged to a regiment in France, for which he muſt neceſſarily have attended all the courſes of ſurgery and anatomy at St. Coſme, beſides the hoſpitals. The latter is publicly known and avowed here to be a *regular-bred* phyſician; and a man of fortune and property; who has not been aſhamed of expoſing his name in ſupport of that *quack* medicine nor of protecting it againſt the virulent aſperſions of his brethren; although in France, during all *Keyſer*'s life, envy never ceaſed to foam and ſpatters againſt the pills, as it now continues to do ſtill, both *there* and *here*. But, was it a bad remedy, they would not rage ſo violently againſt it. Having nothing to fear from the ſucceſs, they would not take notice of it; they would not even mention it. The vender of it himſelf would ſoon have dropped the ſcheme of promoting its fame, had he found his purſe impairing by the expence of advertiſing, without ſeeing a proper return ebbing back, in compenſation for his large flowings. It is then evident to the blindeſt genius, to the moſt obtuſe capacity, that it is not, as they would make us believe, a true and diſintereſted love for mankind and the good of ſociety, which make the faculty rave ſo much againſt what

they are pleaſed to call *quack* medicines; but, only and truly, the ſole diſpleaſure of ſeeing the art of healing growing ſo eaſy, and their conſequence ſinking in proportion. They ſee, with an aching heart, in the *increaſe* and multiplicity of ſuch ſucceſsful medicines, the portending harbinger of an immenſe, and nigh *hovering*, *decreaſe* of their revenues; which, like thoſe of certain other craft-maſters of ſome more dignity, have no other foundation but the credulity, the imbecillity, of an uncautious and blunt-eyed multitude.

As it was a recent fact, tranſacted before our own eyes, within a few years, I had in this cauſe a good opportunity of fighting that of almoſt all others, which now exiſt, and the origin of which, though not, perhaps, ſo well authenticated, may nevertheleſs be as good. Beſides, this account moſt evidently points out the true occult ſource whence ſprings that inveterate enmity which our much boaſted *regular-bred* phyſicians bear to every advertiſed medicine. So that now ſuch an example is enough to open the eyes of the public upon their conduct, and ſet at nought all the moſt ſpecious, and beſt worded, declamations they may henceforth prefer againſt thoſe which either exiſt already, or which may ſtart up at any

any other future time.—Oh! *Sons of Gods* of our days! How far do you ſhew yourſelves from elevated ſpiritualty! How much addiction and adherence, on the contrary, to materiality do you betray to a ſenſible being! What low, mean, and vile ſelfiſhneſs! What intereſted views do you diſcover to candid and indifferent obſervers? Since, becauſe an efficacious remedy is not left in your hands, but paſſes into thoſe of ſuch as will adminiſter it to the afflicted, without the fees of conſultation, at a fiftieth part of what you would charge it, you had rather ſee all your patients die without aſſiſtance, than it be ſaid you have recommended ſuch a remedy to them, or uſed it yourſelves in any of your preſcriptions. *Tantæ ne animis cœleſtibus iræ!*

NOTWITHSTANDING; (would any one believe it? And, what a contradiction!) Innumerable almoſt are the *quack medicines* which, either poſitively coming from *regular-bred* phyſicians, or from other quarters, have however ſo far got the better of their oppoſition as to meet with their general approbation, be recommended by them, and even admitted in their repoſitory. For, beſides thoſe already taken notice of, we have got again, as ſtanding ones, that is to ſay, ſtill ſold and advertiſed in

in the *quack* manner, and nevertheleſs recommended by the faculty, *Daffy's Elixir* *, the *Beaume de Vie*, Dr. *James's Powders*, *Stoughton's Drops*, †, Dr. *Anderſon's Pills*, (now under the appellation of *Scotch Pills*,) the *Vinegar of the Four-Thieves*, &c, &c, &c.

In ſpeaking of this laſt, eſpecially, I cannot help taking this notice of it, that it has a ſingular merit in being effectually the real contrivance of *four* French *rogues*, who, during a peſtilence which raged in their country, found means to rob all the ſick, and plunder all the houſes, without ever catching the leaſt ſymptom of the infection, and that owing only to this ſecret, antipeſtilential preparation of their own contrivance, the publication of which was made, at their trial, the price of their lives. —Now, whether or not, they were men of literature, ſkill, abilities, and theoretical or experimental knowledge in the pharmaceutical art, I ſhall not think of contending here. Neither ſhall I, in order to enhance ſtill more

* Daffy's Elixir is concealed in the ſhops under the appellation of *Tincture of Senna*.

† Theſe Drops inhabit alſo the ſhops *incog*, under the name of the *bitter Tincture*.

the

the merit of the invention, aſſert that they were only ſome dirty villains, according to the idea their profeſſion conveys in an Engliſhman's head, judging from a compariſon with that ſort of people who in England follow the trade of thieves, foot-pads, robbers, houſe-breakers, and pick-pockets. Too many and too fatal examples have we got, and do we meet with, indeed, every day in our own country, of people of higher rank and more exalted ſtation, engaged in the ſame buſineſs and way of life, though not ſo much falling, by the mode of tranſaction obſerved in the practice, within the letter of the law, and thereby not ſo directly amenable to the cognizance of the magiſtrates, the verdict of a jury, and the ſentence of a judge. The bad opinion, which experience and cool reflection, on the preſent ſtate of our manners, and the corruption of our morals, as well as on the tranſactions of ſociety in theſe our days, induce me to entertain of the actuating principles of individuals, is ſuch indeed as to leave no room for me to doubt but every one, from the higheſt to the loweſt, would willingly ſtrip his brother of his property, could he do it with the ſafety of his perſon,—Therefore, there is no cauſe why we ſhould think that a lucky

chance, a fortuitous hap, procured to *four* IGNORANT *rogues* this happy antipeſtilential preſervative; and there is a much greater reaſon to think, that it is the fruit of the deep and long premeditated combinations of *four* ABLE and INGENIOUS CONFEDERATES, whoſe heads the calamitous circumſtance of the times had put to work. For, intereſt is the greateſt promoter, the moſt powerful ſpur of induſtry. And man, the moſt ravenous ſpecies of the animal kingdom, is ſo ſelfiſhly prone and addicted, that nothing could prevail upon the beſt of the whole tribe to do the leaſt good or ſervice to his fellow creature, was HE *himſelf* to deduce no ſort of direct, or indirect, perſonal advantage whatever from the deed.

BUT, to put an end to this defence of the *quack medicines*, and be convinced of their real and intrinſical merit, it ſuffices to obſerve, that notwithſtanding all the railing and ſcurrilous language uſed againſt them, no leſs than FIVE of them *, if not more, have poſitively been received in the laſt *London Diſ-*

* Theſe *five* medicines are, *Elixir of Vitriol*, the *Paregoric*, the *Turlington's*, or *Friar's Balſam*, the *Tincture of Peruvian Bark*, and that of *Cardomoms*,

*penſatory*;

*penſatory*; which is the greateſt proof which can poſſibly be given that *quacks*, and their *medicines*, deſerve not all in general (whatever may be the *peccata* of a few in particular) that cenſure paſſed upon them by the public, nor the malevolent aſperſions thrown againſt them by the faculty; no more than theſe laſt, whatever may be the real merit of ſome very few among the many, deſerve not ALL the encomiums which are beſtowed *on them*, the confidence the public has repoſed *in them*, nor the ſublime character they aſſume, and they would make us believe to be due *to them*.

THERE remains nothing now but to examine ſeriouſly whether or not TWO certain ingredients, of the mineral kingdom, which have lately met with ſome misfortune, and the beſt, moſt effectual and efficacious however, of the known, and actually diſcovered, remedies, are truly ſtained with that blemiſh which is imputed to them; and whether they merit that ſtrong and detrimental prejudice which the generality ſeem to have now imbibed againſt them.—MERCURY and ANTIMONY are the two objects here in view, and are going to be ſubject of the following diſquiſition.

## SECTION II.

## ON MERCURY AND ANTIMONY.

THERE are three * very powerful medicines which are compoſed of MERCURY, *viz.* the *ſublimate*, the *calcined Mercury*, and the *yellow Mercury Emetic*, otherwiſe *Turbith Mineral*.—The ſublimate is the only one hitherto known which has the peculiar property of diſſolving equally well in any liquid you can put it into, let it be ſpirit of wine, vinegar, mere water only, or any thing elſe whatever. By this mean it acquires that ſuperior advantage to be rendered a much ſafer remedy than any of thoſe other ſorts of preparations which, refuſing themſelves to diſſolution, cannot be

* A *fourth* might perhaps, with great propriety, be added to thoſe *three*, viz. *Mercurius dulcis*, or, *dulcified Mercury*, an exceſſively good medicine though no leſs a rank poiſon, than all the other preparations of Mercury, therefore requeſting a *very judicious* hand to be adminiſtered with ſafety.

given in any other ſhape, or form, but in powders, pills, &c.

THE reaſon is obvious; and, every ſenſible being will, eaſily, conceive that, by making up pills, which is done by an admixture of ſome other ingredients, in order to compoſe a kind of paſte, there may, nay there muſt unavoidably, follow an uncertainty in the diviſion of each of thoſe thus intermixed ingredients, which being the caſe, with reſpect to that chief active one, cannot but be attended with dangerous conſequences. For, this uncertainty muſt neceſſarily be productive of inequality in the doſing of that moſt eſſential article of the compoſt: whence it may happen that one pill ſhall have *three* grains of it to itſelf alone, while another ſhall have but *one*, and the other very likely *none* at all, or, *nearly* none.

ON the contrary, a liquid is infinitely more ſuſceptible of the moſt accurate preparation. It may be corrected to a poſitive certainty, and, therefore, taken with the greateſt ſecurity, and without any the leaſt apprehenſion or fear.

ANOTHER

ANOTHER ſtrong objection againſt *Mercurial*, *Antimonial*, or any other pills, is again this. They are apt to lay in the ſtomach unactive * for a great while, until ſome liquid of an acid quality comes down, and then ſets immediately the whole in action. This obſervation is ſupported by the opinion of the very learned Dr. HUXHAM himſelf, who, in his *Treatiſe on Antimony*, takes notice of this circumſtance, and very ſtrongly expatiates on the ſuperior advantage an impregnated liquid has over a ſolid compoſition, and the much greater ſafety which attends the taking of the former, as it "readily mixes," ſays he, "with "the blood and animal humours, and paſſes "off ſo freely and eaſily through all the out-"lets of the body, that it may be given with "ſafety, and repeated with ſucceſs, *two*, *three*, "or even *four times* in twenty-four hours in "ſmall doſes, and ſo continued for days to-"gether. Whereas the *ſolid*—preparations "are very uncertain in this operation, *ſome-"times lying a long time* in the ſtomach and

* I think, notwithſtanding, this objection, however well it may ſuit *Mercurial* preparations in general, is not quite ſo ſtrictly applicable to *ſublimate*; as this is of its nature too active to lay long dead in any one's body; the natural warmth of which is full ſufficient alone to ſet it in motion.

"bowels,

"bowels, *before they exert any ſenſible effect*;
"and then *at once irritating* with ſo much
"violence and obſtinacy that ——— an Hy-
"percatharſis * ſometimes, all at once and
"unexpectedly, comes on, eſpecially on drink-
"ing a glaſs of wine, cyder or other vege-
"table acids. Beſides," continues the ſame author, "when *medicines* are given in ſub-
"ſtance, they muſt firſt undergo a diſſolu-
"tion in the ſtomach, before they can paſs the
"lacteals, and be mixed with the blood, ſo
"as to act as alteratives, diaphoretics, &c."

THIS ſage obſervation of *Huxham* muſt then hold good with reſpect to mercurial *liquid* and *ſolid* preparations, and eſtabliſh powerfully the ſuperiority I have advanced that the one is poſſeſſed of over the other.

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*Hypercatharſis*, from ὑπερ *ſupra*, *præter*, and καθαρσις *purgatio*, therefore *ſupra modum purgatio*, that is to ſay, a violent over and above purging.---This explication of hard words we have thought neceſſary, whenever there occured any in this pamphlet, to facilitate the underſtanding of it to the ladies who may happen to read it, and by whom indeed it is our wiſh it may be peruſed, as well as by the *Adepts*, or, otherwiſe, thoſe who think and call themſelves, and generally are conſidered as, compleatly ſkilled in all the ſecrets of the *Phyſical Art*.

Now,

Now, it is no leſs certain that *ſublimate*, and all other mercurial preparations, may be increaſed and decreaſed in their virulent qualities *ad libitum*. You may correct, for example, the *corroſive ſublimate* to ſuch a degree, that all its virulent powers ſhall be quite deſtroyed and annihilated, as in the powder called the *white precipitate of Mercury*; a powder well known among the ladies, for its efficacious virtue, in deſtroying that little animal which, ſo commonly infeſts children's heads. Its innocence muſt be great, ſince it is uſed ſo freely with children's heads, even at an age when their fountain is ſtill quite wide open; and its efficacy muſt be very little inferior to its innocence, ſince one ſingle thimble-full mixed with common ſtarch-powder at the time of dreſſing, will be found quite ſufficient to operate the ſame effect in adults lying under the ſame predicament.

On another hand; *ſublimate* may be rendered ſtill more corroſive than it is by itſelf, by making the following experiment.—R. Take half a drachm of ſublimate, which diſſolve in one ounce of rectified ſpirit of wine in a glaſs mortar. Next, pour it on a plate and ſet it on fire; the ſpirit will burn out and

and leave after it the ſublimate, which will appear as a thin pulp, ſpread over the plate. Add now a gill of common water, and grind it again with the peſtle in the mortar as before. If you put a little of that mixture on a knife, or a ſhilling, it will inſtantaneouſly ſtain either as black as coals, and much more than any other preparation of the ſame ingredient.

ANOTHER experiment. With a moderate addition of any alkaline ſalt, you will always correct the ſublimate at pleaſure: ſo that, if you carry that addition to a certain degree, beyond proportion, you may thereby deſtroy its corroding power intirely.—But, by adding to this laſt mixture of deſtroyed ſublimate an acid liquid, you will revive all the inactive acrimony of the *ſublimate*, and reſtore it to its prime ſtate as it was before. Becauſe the acid liquid is a menſtruum which loads itſelf with all the particles of ſalt, and abſorbs them without affecting the *ſublimate*, which, then forſaken by the ſalt, and rid of the encumbrance of its parts, recovers the free action of its own. Thus it is that what was a poiſon juſt now, is no more ſo at preſent, and the next moment may be made a poiſon again.—Whence I conclude that, though *ſub-*

*limate* has been ſo much exclaimed againſt, of late, yet it is nevertheleſs the beſt and the ſafeſt of all mercurial medicines, WHEN, (I muſt confeſs) it is in judicious hands, and adminiſtered to patients who will ſtrictly adhere to the preſcriptions of the adminiſtrator, who, undoubtedly, beſt knows the nature and quality of what he gives, and the regimen it requires, during the peruſal.

SOME weak geniuſes make their appearance now and then, who, in compliance to the prejudices and circumſtances of the time, have the foible of advertiſing their medicines as *deſtitute* of *Mercury*, *Antimony* and other *unfortunate* mineral, or vegetable, which for the time may happen to be in diſgrace: while, at the ſame time theſe ingredients are the very foundation of their medicines, and they could not manufacture them without that portion of their receipts. They forget that there is no medicine, of any note or efficacy, which does not carry its particular characteriſtic along with it; a characteriſtic which will always be found out either by the ſmell, by the taſte, by the effects, or by the trial they can be put to: and that, therefore, a mere aſſertion, or declaration, that ſuch or ſuch an ingredient does

not

not enter into the compoſition of ſuch a medicine is not enough to be credited. Thus, for example, *Camphire*, *Hemlock*, and *Cinnamon*, will be diſcovered by the ſmell: though good *Caſſia*, indeed, will very nearly give the ſame odor as this laſt. *Jalap*, beſides its well known purgative quality, will be found out by its burning diſagreeable taſte in the throat. *Cantharides* by their occaſioning a ſtrangury in the urinary paſſage when the doſe is pretty ſtrong; and, if weaker, by its producing a conſtant deſire of making water, which ſoon brings on a diabetes. Thus, pills made of *ſublimate*, if rubbed on a ſhilling will ſtain it black; and *Mercury*, if given in ſtrong draughts will particularly affect the mouth. Though I muſt not deny, I have alſo known patients who complain of all the ſymptoms * which are found to affect the mouth after Mercury has been taken, though no ſort of medicine at all had been adminiſtered to them, which affection was intirely and ſolely owing to a mere ſcorbutic habit of their body.

* Confirmed by the anſwer and declaration of Surgeon BROMFIELD to Serjeant GLYNN; as may be ſeen p. 41. l. 11. of Miſs *Butterfield*'s trial. Which ſee

But, to return to what I ſaid before, and continue to prove how ingredients are diſcovered by experiments: ſuppoſe a medicine be compoſed of reſins, for example; as theſe are only diſſolved in ſpirits, the trial is made by pouring ſome of the compoſition into a glaſs of water, it will turn all into a milky white liquor. Even a nutmeg, if powdered and infuſed in ſpirit of wine, that infuſion will produce the ſame effect as ſoon as mixed with water. So that thoſe who are a little converſant with the *materia medica*, will never be at a loſs to pronounce what are the chief ingredients any medicine is generally compoſed of, as to its baſis, though they will not be able to determine preciſely as to the reſpective quantity which every article bears, in proportion to each other. Though the *Antimercurialiſts* may pronounce that ingredient to exiſt in a medicine, it is not a reaſon, by any means, why ſuch a medicine ſhould be objected to. For, as I ſaid before, ſince a very ſmall matter may alter and correct the *ſublimate* in particular, ſo as to make it a ſafe remedy, when adminiſtered even in double and treble the quantity, which, otherwiſe and without that correction, might be given, it reſults that no reaſonable cenſure can be paſſed

ſed againſt a compoſition, becauſe it proves to contain that ſort of ingredient.

I COULD have wiſhed to avoid entering into all theſe particulars: but, I was rather compelled, by the nature of the ſubject, to make theſe previous obſervations as they enable me to convince people that, in general, there is in *minerals*, beſides their tractability in the management, a virtue infinitely greater in power, and ſuperior in quality, to that which is diſcovered in *vegetables*; and I had thereby an oppottunity to prove that the former may be ſo prepared as to be taken with all the ſafety one can wiſh for, eſpecially *when they are in judicious hands*, who know how to prepare and uſe them. This, therefore, will not now, I ſuppoſe, be denied. But, they will object again another thing; they will ſay that generally it is quite the reverſe, and that they are moſt commonly fabricated, prepared, and adminiſtered, by unſkilled perſons, and taken in medicines the nature and compoſition of which the patients are totally unacquinted with, or ignorant of.—I am willing, for one moment, to admit the fact: but, at the ſame time, I muſt declare I am of opinion the objection is not a bit the better grounded; and I will prove it.

FIRST;

First; with reſpect to the former part of the charge, we have already proved, I believe, in the beginning of this pamphlet, that, provided the medicine is a good one in itſelf, and comes originally from ſome able hands, or head, from ſome of the firſt-rate phyſicians (as there ever were, are now undoubtedly, and will always be a few in all countries and in all ages) it does not ſignify a bit of a ſtraw by whom it is now prepared and vended. The actual proprietor, preparer or vender, as you pleaſe to call him, has nothing to do but to follow implicitly, ſtrictly and ſlaviſhly the receipt he has inherited, or which was delivered to him at the time of his purchaſe, and both he and the public are ſafe enough.—The public is *ſafe*, becauſe he is ſure of purchaſing a good, efficacious and tried medicine: and the other is *ſafe* likewiſe, becauſe he is ſure of meeting with ſucceſs and encouragement, in proportion as the repeated cures, performed by means of the remedy, lay every day more and more ſolid foundations for its fame and reputation.—There is this very plain, and, however, true obſervation to be made on advertiſed medicines, *viz.* That all the treaſures of Peru beſtowed in advertiſements and puffings of a *bad* medicine, *in*

*itself* bad, *absolutely* bad, will not avail one farthing towards its sale. It must fall, and it WILL fall, in spite of all the redoubled efforts and endeavours of PLUTUS, and of the Goddess of oratory. Therefore, a medicine of long standing must, of course, be a good one, *ipso facto*, and in spite of all the clamours of malice and envy. The ignorance of the craftsman can therefore be no argument against the intrinsical merit, virtue and safety of the remedy, as long as he is not the inventor of it. And its sole success is and must be at any time a sure warrant of its *preconised* efficacy.

As for the second part of the objection, concerning the patients being unacquainted with the nature and the compositions of such medicines, it is no objection at all, or, at most, it is a very laughable one: for, who ever is the patient who requires his physician, or apothecary, to give him the receipt of the draughts which are brought to him from the shops? And, notwithstanding, it would be much more rationable in himself, his friends, or his attendants, to insist upon such an information; as many a mistake, and many an error have been committed, sometimes through the hurry, and more often through the ignorance

rance of the ſervants of thoſe ſhops, which have killed the patients inſtead of relieving them.—*Through hurry*, miſtakes have been committed, by putting a wrong label round the neck of a bottle, and thus ordering a mixture to be taken by draughts, which ſhould have been taken by ſpoonfuls only, or by ſpoonfuls which ſhould have been taken by drops, &c.——*Through ignorance*, innumerable miſtakes and errors, have been, and daily are committed in the ſhops by ſervants, prentices and ſhop-men taking out of a wrong pot, or bottle, and ſending a rank poiſon to patients which kill them almoſt ſuddenly, with the draught in their mouth, before one half has had time to get down their throat.——Theſe accidents never did, NEVER CAN happen with the venders of adverti[illegible] medicines. They know too well the ingredients they are to make uſe of, if they even know no other whatever in the whole *materia medica*. And thoſe they uſe always are the very beſt of the ſort which can poſſibly be got for money, without any regard to the price; and their remedies are compoſed with the greateſt care, the moſt ſcrupulous attention to the *formulæ*, or preſcriptions of the inventor. Contrary to this, the draughts which are

compoſed

compoſed in the ſhops are too often made of *old*, *ſtale*, and ſtill more often, *ſpurious*, drugs, which are ſubſtituted for the good and genuine ones, either through a ſpirit of lazineſs, which permits them not to put themſelves at the trouble of preparing * the right ſort, or through a ſordid ſpirit of intereſt, becauſe the profits accruing from the falſe and ſpurious ingredients are more conſiderable. Such is their little care for the difference between the efficaciouſneſs of ſome, and the defects of the others!

THEREFORE it is now evident that the advertiſed medicines, when originated from good hands, muſt be infinitely preferable; ſince they have all the advantages which compoſi-

* Can any one of them deny (eſpecially thoſe of the country) that inſtead of diſtilling their anaſeed, mint, pepper-mint, cinnamon, juniper, &c, &c, &c, waters, they only take very often a few drops of the eſſential oil of thoſe plants, mix it with a little ſugar and rectified ſpirit of wine, and pour common water upon it, then uſe it, where the diſtilled water of either is required. This haſty preparation never mixing well with the common water with which it is made, on account of the heterogeneous particles of this laſt and thoſe of the eſſential oil, which is found always ſwimming on the top of the other in little bubbles, it is evident the expected effect cannot be obtained from it. Will they call that conduct an honeſt one?

tions can have, *viz.* the greateſt care and accuracy in the making up, and the choiceſt of ingredients which can be obtained from the hands of mother Nature, and procured by dint of money from whatever part of the globe they can be imported, without any reſervedneſs or diſcretion on that head. For, the neatneſs and elegance of the look, or exterior appearance, which is generally the prepoſſeſſing attendant of ſuch medicines, as well as the infallibility of their efficacy, depend intirely on the virtue of the ingredients: and the virtue of the ingredients muſt undoubtedly depend on their perfections, which ſhews evidently, and irreſiſtibly, that ſpurious drugs could never anſwer thoſe compoſers' ends, who muſt abſolutely depend, for their ſucceſs and fortune, upon their reputation only and ſolely.

But, will ſome again ſay, did not ever any of the advertiſed medicines kill, or hurt, thoſe who made uſe of them?—To be ſure, *ſome* have; nay, moreover, *all* may: and why not, pray?—Why ſhould they not have that privilege in common with thoſe of the ſhops, and as well as all the *Recipe's* of the ſo much boaſted *regular-bred* phyſicians?—Theſe, it is well known, produce that effect, and they

they make no myſtery of it; they offer not to deny it, when improperly applied, unſagaciouſly doſed, untimely uſed, ignorantly compoſed. All that may, all that does happen to the preſcriptions of the faculty. We have even already made it, juſt now, a matter of anſwer to the ſecond part of the objection argued againſt *quack*-medicines. Therefore, that a patient afflicted with a particular diſorder ſhould ſend for a medicine prepared for another ſort of diſeaſe, and uſe it againſt all reaſon and the perſuaſion of his friends; does not this correſpond totally with the miſtakes of apothecaries' ſervants putting a wrong label round the neck of a bottle, and ſending to a patient what has been ordered for another, or preſcribing to be taken by draughts what ſhould only by ſpoonfuls, &c?—This was the caſe of Dr. GOLDSMITH taking, againſt all ſenſe and reaſon, and the perſuaſion of his friends, *James's Powders* which were not fit for him. What can the vender of the medicine, or its preparer, do in ſuch a circumſtance?—Is it his fault?—No, certainly.—And, therefore, I ſay that the ſecond part of the objection already mentioned, and already anſwered, ſtands now ſtill more perfectly deſtroyed. For, *now*, it appears to be evidently quite the re-

verſe of that propoſition which ſhould be propounded, as the following argument will evince,—By a medicine being advertiſed for SUCH or SUCH a particular diſorder, and NO OTHER, *the patient* KNOWS *then what he takes*; he is, POSITIVELY ſure that *that* medicine is made for *that* diſorder.—HE knows beſt whether or not he is afflicted with ſuch a one: and, IF HE IS, well and good: THEN, he ſends for it, and KNOWS WHAT HE TAKES; though not, very likely, all the particulars, all the exact *minutiæ* of the compoſition, with which indeed he has not, nor ought to care much to have, any thing to do.—If, on the contrary, he IS NOT afflicted with that diſorder this medicine is prepared for removing, and inſiſts upon taking of it, HE is a fool; HE, HIMSELF, commits the miſtake, and if the medicine kills him, he has *nobody* to accuſe for it but *his own perſon*; he is, to all intents and purpoſes, *felo de ſe*.—Who then, in his ſenſes, will dare to attack a medicine, and diſcredit it, on account of ſuch an accident?—Wine, the beſt of liquors, rum, brandy, and other ſpirits, have killed many individuals in all countries; and no one ever thought of making it a cauſe of his diſparage-

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ment againſt them.—People may kill themſelves with any thing; with the moſt common and innocent food; even with bread, the moſt wholeſome of any, if they eat it in too great a quantity, while it is too new, and before it is quite cold. HYPPOCRATES has ſaid, *omnis repletio mala*; PANIS, *autem, peſſima*.—Now, on the contrary, when it is *at the ſhops* the error, the miſtake, or the fault, is committed: when the preparer miſtakes *Peter* for *Paul* and *John* for *Robert*; when he takes one drug for another, and blunders the time, the quantity and the doſes, &c. IT IS THEN *truly and poſitively*, that the poor patient KNOWS NOT, INDEED, *the nature and compoſition of what he takes*, nor the *fatal* conſequences which are to follow the uſe of it. He takes with confidence; his friends, his aſſiſtants adminiſter him the mixture, with an equal ſecurity; and it is from the deareſt hand that the unhappy victim receives the aweful cup, and takes the fatal draught which puts an end to his days, and throws deſolation and deſpair in a whole family.—Ye, tender wives, now diſconſolate widows! Dutiful children, helpleſs orphans? Ye, fond mothers, loving huſbands, now, tell me ALL!

Who

Who are at this time, this well conſidered, who in your opinion, are the common empoiſonners? Who are the murderers of the members of ſociety? Who are the peſt of the ſtate? The advertiſers of ſafe, ſure, tried and accurately compoſed medicines? Or, the preparers of *regular-bred phyſicians'* preſcriptions?—I leave you to pronounce. And I believe that judicious and impartial jury, the public, will not want much deliberation to bring his *verdict* in the cauſe before him, and may eaſily do it without going out of court.

THE other cry, againſt advertiſed medicines, is on account of their containing *Mercury*, or ſome other mineral which the unlearned generality think to be poiſonous ingredients. So that, now, hardly an advertiſement is ſeen in the papers but you meet with theſe ridiculous exclamations, NO MERCURY!—NO ANTIMONY!—NO MINERALS! &c.—Eh! in the name of wonder, is there not then any other poiſons in this univerſe to put a *cave* on but *Mercury*, *Antimony*, and other ſuch *Minerals*?—And, what are then *Cantharides*, *Opium*, *Hemlock*, *Steel*, *Lead*, *Reſin of Jalap*, *Scammony*, *Hellebore*, *Coloquintida*,

*tida, Gamboge, Aloes* *, &c, &c, &c.? What are in ſhort innumerable other ſorts of animals and vegetables which are uſed in the very advertiſed medicines which proteſt to uſe no *Mercury*, and *Antimony*, or in the preparations of the ſhops? Are not theſe downright poiſons?—Notwithſtanding, this very man who aſſerts his *ſpecific drops*, for the cure of a certain diſeaſe, contain *no Mercury*, poſitively uſes in a RESTORATIVE MEDICINE, *Cantharides*, which are a much greater one, ſince they attack the urinary paſſage, and cauſe (as we ſaid before) when given even in ſmall quantity an inceſſant want of making water, which brings at laſt ſuch a relaxation of the parts as to occaſion ſoon a diabetes, or involuntary ſhedding of the urine.—On Dr. MEAD's aſſertion that *Cantharides* were a certain cure for the leproſy, I was once tempted to make ſeveral experiments: but they were

* ALOES is well known to be the chief ingredient of the moſt humble *Scotch Pills*: and no leſs known, by thoſe who are acquainted with the virtues and qualities of the *Materia Medica*, for cauſing, by its powerful irritations in the *Anus*, the piles, ſooner than any thing which can be mentioned. Beſides, theſe pills are made of the *Hepatic*, Barbadoes, or common aloes, which is generally given to horſes, and is very inferior to the *Socotorine*.

ſo

ſo far from being ſucceſsful to my ſatisfaction, and to anſwer my expectations after ſuch a man's word; and, the certainty with which I have enabled myſelf to ſpeak of that medicine is now ſuch, as to make me almoſt wiſh Doctor MEAD's paſſage were intirely erazed from his works. This ingredient, I take upon me to ſay it, is by no means endowed with ſuch virtue; or, if it is, the riſk and danger which attend the adminiſtering of it are ſuch, that they far exceed what the laws both of God and man do allow, and what an honeſt man can undertake to execute with a ſafe conſcience.——I have found, upon trial, that only *half a drachm* of Cantharides is a ſufficient quantity to impregnate a whole quart of ſpirit of wine, water or any liquid, with their powerful qualities:—that a ſingle tea-ſpoonful of this tincture, taken three times a day, will occaſion the relaxation I have mentioned;—and that the infuſion in water only, with or without a ſmall addition of ſpirit, will act more powerfully than what the *Diſpenſatory* has preſcribed even with all proof ſpirit alone.—Therefore, I muſt conclude, that *Cantharides* are a much more dangerous poiſon than *Mercury* or *Antimony*.—Indeed, by ſuch railings againſt every

every ingredient which is made uſe of, were we to exclude, one after another, from the ſeveral medical compoſitions, all thoſe which might now and then be exceptioned, we would ſoon find ourſelves reduced to return to that time of ignorance, when diſorders were deemed incurable.

THAT *vegetables* ſhould have the ſway, ſhould carry the palm among thoſe who are unexperienced, unverſed in the comparative analyſis, by chymiſtry, of the virtues of theſe with thoſe of the *minerals*, is not at all ſtrange, nor to be wondered at. Theſe lively productions of Nature have every thing forecatching in their favour. They are in themſelves a wholeſome eatable, in general; the firſt perhaps too, if we believe *Moſes*, which was given to man before his fall;—they are the food of many clean and agreeable animals:—they muſt, from the beginning of the world, have prepoſſeſſed the mind of man by their pleaſing proſpect, by their variegated enamelling of the fields; and, ſince that, they have proved of ſingularly quick and efficacious benefit in curing ſome light diſorders, and eſpecially in the *ſea-ſcurvy*. Hence, that is to ſay, from this laſt circumſtance, ſome

have fancied them endowed with the ſame efficacy in caſe of *land-ſcurvy*; while, by the very nature of thoſe two different ſorts of diſorders, under one ſame and erroneous denomination, it is evident they can be but of little ſervice.

In the *ſea-ſcurvy*, the diſorder, though dreadful enough in its conſequences when of long continuance, is however only local and temporary. It is very often confined to the mouth where it affects the gums, the palate and the cheeks. Its cauſe being the alkaline quality of the food on ſea, a little matter of freſh water and ſweet vegetables ſoon repair that irritation cauſed at the orifice of the ſalivary ducts, and deſtroy all that acrimony of their juices which cauſed the pain, ſenſibility, and offenſive *effluviæ* of the parts, eſpecially as thoſe ſame juices are inceſſantly recruited by freſh ſupplies from the maſs of the blood, which itſelf is not corrupted.——But, in the *land-ſcurvy*, the caſe is very different. The whole maſs of the blood is affected, and infected. Its reſtoration, therefore, to a pure ſtate, neither is nor can be the ſudden effect of the mere introduction of *vegetable* juices into its

its ſtream. It is the action of ſome more powerful agent which, then, is required.

At the occaſion of this, I think I may, without being accuſed, or ſuſpected, of prejudice, animoſity, malevolence, or even partiality, ſtrengthen this aſſertion by the example of two *vegetable medicines* which, though in the hands of two rivals and contending proprietors, who, one would think, ſhould have vied with each other in producing the beſt, the moſt numerous, and better authenticated liſt of cures, is ſo evidently deſtitute of power and efficacy, that *one* of the two advertiſers, though backed by very ſubſtantial perſons, ſunk unſucceſsful, in ſight of his triumphant, though inferior, adverſaries, under the weight of the expences; and *the other*, now ſurviving this antagoniſt's fall, is obliged, in order to ſupport his credit, to be beholden to two old and ill-authenticated cures, for want of better ſucceſs. I ſay *old* and *ill-authenticated* cures, and I prove it thus. Upon enquiry, I found that in the firſt cure the medicine had been adminiſtered between three and four years ago, and the wife herſelf, of the patient, declared to me that, during the whole time of her huſband uſing the

ſaid *ſyrup*, he was ordered to drink, and did effectually drink, a decoction of *ſarſaparilla*; a drug which, alone, in many caſes of no obſtinate and inveterate kinds, will often of itſelf perfect a cure: whence, therefore, there remains a very natural and ſolid ground for a rational doubt whether to the *ſyrup* or to the *ſarſaparilla*, the cure is to be aſcribed?—As for the other, which is now * adverti ſing, it is ſo premature, that it neither is nor ever will be a cure: and it is therefore an impoſition upon the candour and the faith of the public; ſince the patient, far from being reſtored to his health, has been obliged, a long while ago, to give up the uſe of the remedy and now is juſt the ſame as before he began, hardly able to make ſhift to work at his anvil without much pains.——With ſuch barrenneſs, or more properly ſcantineſs, of cures † is it

* This was written in November 1775.

† If they are ſcanty of cures in *ſcorbutic* caſes, they might perhaps be more plentiful in *venereal* ones: For, they ſeem to lay a great ſtreſs on the prodigious efficacy of their medicine in thoſe matters. As for my part, I ſhall not attempt to contradict them on that head, with reſpect to the *power* or *inefficacy* of that compoſition in thoſe circumſtances, never having been deſirous to meddle with that ſort of ſhameful diſorder, nor ambitious to render my medicine ſerviceable in it. So far from

it poſſible to contend for an abſolute and efficacious power in *vegetables* alone, when there is an infection of the blood occaſioned by ſuch virulent diſorders as the *Scurvy*, *Leproſy*, *Ulcers*, *Gout*, *Rheumatims*, &c, &c?

COULD ſuch *vegetables*, indeed, be found endowed with the virtues and power requiſite to perform complete cures of the above diſorders, no one certainly would heſitate to give them the preference. But, it is univerſally allowed that none ſuch exiſt, or as yet, at leaſt, are come to the knowlege of man. Till they are, why ſhould we, therefore, neglect bringing to perfection a ſure and ſafe management of the *minerals*? And, when we do employ them, with a happy ſucceſs, why ſhould we be ſo ungrateful as cowardly to deny it?——As for my part, far from being propenſe to make uſe of ſuch puſillanimous practices, in order to enhance the ſale of my

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from it, that I would look upon it as a diſcredit to a medicine prepared, inſtituted and propoſed for other purpoſes, to be thought of embracing alſo in her virtues that of curing a diſorder which might make a patient aſhamed of being caught in the uſing of it, for fear of being ſuſpected of worſe diſeaſes than that for which he is in reality taking it.

medicine,

medicine, by muſtering up cuſtomers on falſe and deluſive aſſertions, and at the expence, of courſe, of my veracity, my honour and my good name, I have always made it a point, when aſked the queſtion, whether or not I made uſe of * *Mercury* or *Antimony* in the compoſition of my medicine, candidly to anſwer in the affirmative, and to own that even BOTH *theſe ingredients* had conjointly their ſhare in it. And, now, I will go ſtill farther; for, I publicly proteſt that, was I to be forbidden ever to employ them, or were they to be prohibited in this kingdom as once (to the everlaſting *credit* † of our antient ſagaciouſneſs

* MAREDANT's drops, chiefly compoſed of mercury; Dr. NORRIS's drops, antimonial; each of them are allowed to be good medicines. This laſt, eſpecially, ſeems to be very much like one of *Baſil Valentine*, which he deſcribes in his *Triumphant Chariot of Antimony*. But, let it be whatever it will, Doctor NORRIS's is, I muſt do it that juſtice, a very fine, ſafe, and pleaſant medicine, made with ſuperlatively rectified ſpirit of wine: and, if ſucceſsful, which I doubt not, in fevers, it certainly has, in point of ſafety, when adminiſtered, the advantage of *James's Powders*, which are ſo often preſcribed by the faculty.

† The *credit* of our wiſdom and ſagaciouſneſs would, I am afraid, ſuffer a little from ranſacking old records: ſince we find that, no farther back than 1428, an act of parliament was made againſt the HOP, forbidding the uſe it in malt liquors, as a *wicked weed*; and that it never was

cioufneſs let it be ſaid) HOPS had the honour to be, by act of parliament, I would immediately give up all practice, and renounce ever compoſing my ANTISCORBUTIC DROPS.—— For a great while, I have tried *vegetables* alone, and found I could make with them but very little progreſs; and, often, a mere nothing at all, if the diſorder was never ſo little ſtubborn and inveterate. This proved to me the truth of SHAKESPEARE's obſervation in HAMLET, that *deſperate diſeaſes require deſperate * remedies, or none at all.*

IT was not before the laſt reformation of the London Diſpenſatory that the *vegetable juices* were introduced in it for the firſt time: though they were already recorded, before that reformation, in the *Edinburgh's* and

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was reintroduced, into the kingdom, before the following century, in 1524, which is but *four*, leſs than *one hundred*, years after. Mighty deeds of our forefathers! Memorable teſtimonies, indeed, of their genius! And how many people have we got, even now, who full as weak as they, would make us act as fooliſhly, if their power was equal to their will!

* All our beſt remedies are *deſperate*, for all our beſt remedies are *poiſons*, or *compoſed*, with poiſons. And their ſalubrious qualities lie in, and are nothing but, a rational, judicious, and properly proportioned, introduction of them into our fabric.

*Bates's.*——And, in a Diſpenſatory printed at Nurenberg, *Anno* 1669, we find *eight* different preſcriptions of antiſcorbutic waters, wherein brook-lime, horſe-radiſh, water-creſſes, and ſeveral other ingredients, are mentioned, and compoſe the chief part.——The London Diſpenſatory gives the following preſcription *of vegetable juices* under the name of *ſucci ſcorbutici*, or, *ſcorbutic juices*:—— ℞. *Of the juice of garden ſcurvy-graſs, two pints: brook-lime and water-creſſes, each one pint: Seville oranges, a pint and a quarter.*—— Edinburgh adds to the above, *white ſugar* and *compound horſe radiſh-water*.——And the venders of the vegetable *ſyrup* add again to all this *dandelion* and *ſalt of tartar*: which, as muſt be ſuppoſed, is what they term an improvement. Whether or not, with any propriety, this ſmall and inſignificant addition deſerves that pompous denomination, the public, and able practitioners, will pronounce.

A CERTAIN eminent Doctor (though anonymous) who wrote on the Diſpenſatory, obſerves, "that the ſugar had by all means "better be omitted, as it occaſions a fermen-"tation which, when the bottle is full, muſt "be productive of its flying to pieces. Be-

"ſides,

"fides, that the ſugar being ſweet, and glu-
"tinous by its nature, is apt to clog the
"paſſages, and turn ſour * in ſome ſto-
"machs. Therefore, that it is preferable to
"let thoſe juices ſtand in a cool place for
"ſome days till the fæces have all ſubſided,
"and then ſtrain them gently ſeveral times,
"till perfectly fine, to be bottled for uſe in
"ſmall phials, with a little oil poured on the
"ſurface as is done with Florence wine."

FROM all this, there may generally be deduced a ſort of conviction that *vegetables* † can be but of little ſervice in obdurate caſes, when

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* To prevent ſugar from turning ſour on the ſtomach you muſt add a proportionable quantity of alkaline ſalt.

† Have we not every year in the ſpring the *vegetable juices* ſold in Newgate, and Covent-Garden, markets, freſh drawn every day? Were they ſo efficacious, as they are ſaid to be, we ſhould not find among the lower claſs of people ſo many victims of the ravages of the ſcurvy as we meet with, who are true ſpectacles indeed, and objects of compaſſion. Antient phyſicians tried the *vegetables*, and were obliged to fly to *minerals*. But by over doſing of them, and frequently bringing on a ſalivation, it often made them miſcarry. They were, then, true wild, untamed, and furious *ſteeds*, vaſtly dangerous to truſt to, or meddle with: but, now, they may be ſaid to have at laſt taken the bit, and received the curb, ſo that they are as mild, ſteady and tractable as the moſt gentle lady's *palfrey*,

the diſorder has impregnated the whole maſs of the blood, and, in ſome meaſure, altered its whole compoſition and quality. If ſo, where can there be found a remedy inveſted with ſuch power as to expel all the heterogeneous mixtures introduced in it and reſtore it to its primary purity? In minerals, certainly; and, no where elſe. Now, to prove that minerals, and eſpecially the two chief-ones againſt which the ignorant multitude exclaim ſo much, are of the greateſt and moſt effectual ſervice in theſe caſes, let us hear what Dr. QUINCY ſays * of them in ſuch preſcriptions of his *Diſpenſatory* as concern the *Gout* and *Rheumatiſm*, and in which he admits *Mercury* and *Antimony*.—"It is by "theſe," ſays he, "that many EMPIRICS "have got great fame, when perſons of learn-"ing and judgment are backward in adven-"turing on things, where there is any ha-"zard; though *theſe* by a *ſkilful hand* CAN "NEVER DO HARM. They are the baſis of "many medicines that are now of great eſ-"teem in the moſt obſtinate rheumatisms, "&c."——In another place, ſpeaking of a ſtrong *mercurial* preparation, he recommends

* Page 407.

ſmall

ſmall doſes of it every day; and, then, he adds. "If this method is complied with, "inveterate cutaneous poxes, which reſiſt ſa- "livations, and all other means at preſent "in practice, may be radically cured, as may "alſo *Lepras*, habitual ſcorbutical erup- "tions, and almoſt all diſeaſes of the ſkin."— And again, ſpeaking of another medicine where *Antimony* and *Mercury* are united, he ſays. "This medicine is highly recommended by "ſome, as being of the greateſt efficacy in "ſcorbutic and ſcrophulous caſes; as alſo in "all glandular obſtructions and many chro- "nical caſes, out of the reach of common "medicines: and it is likewiſe ſaid to avail "more than any other medicine in cancerous "humours, and obdurate venereal caſes."—— On the other antimonial preparation, he makes again this obſervation. "It is a moſt "efficacious deobſtruent, and therefore ex- "tremely uſeful in ſcrophulous, obſtinate ſcor- "butic, and all ſuch caſes as ariſe from "glandular obſtructions."—In ſhort, at the occaſion of another preparation of *Antimony*, he makes this particular and ſtriking remark: "Almoſt all the foregoing preparations of "Antimony, how ſevere ſoever alone, may "be ſo managed by the ſkilful hand as to

" operate little, or not at all, in the *primæ* " *viæ*, nor be perceived until they are got " into the ſmaller veſſels; *and* THEN *it is* " *that* MIGHTY THINGS *are effected*; *as the* " CURE *of the* GOUT, POX, EVIL, *and all* " *thoſe diſeaſes* WHICH ARE TOO MUCH *the* " OPPROBRIA MEDICORUM."——Thus it is this oracle of pharmacy ſpeaks in many places, and in the moſt high terms of the virtues of thoſe *two great medicines* (MERCURY and ANTIMONY) either ſeparate or blended together.

IN Dr. LEWIS's new Diſpenſatory *, we find again the following paſſage. " The uſe " of MERCURY in medicine ſeems to have " been little known before the fifteenth cen- " tury. The antients looked upon it as a " corroſive poiſon, though of itſelf perfectly " void of acrimony, taſte and ſmell: there " are examples of its having been lodged for " years in cavities both of bones and fleſhy " parts, without its having injured or affect- " ed them. Taken into the body in its crude " ſtate and undivided, it paſſes through the " inteſtines unchanged and has not been " found to produce any conſiderable effect " . . . . . combined with mineral a-

* Page 91.

" cids,

" cids, it has very powerful effects; afford-
" ing *the moſt violent poiſons* *, and THE
" MOST EXCELLENT REMEDIES that we are
" acquainted with . . . . . &c, &c." See there, and alſo page 507; and on Antimony, page 527 and 534, &c.

DOCTOR HUXHAM in his *obſervation on Antimony*, page 70, expreſſes himſelf thus in ſpeaking of a certain preparation of antimonial drink.—" Now," ſays he, " in this liquid
" preparation the reguline part is already
" diſſolved, and moſt exquiſitely attenuated,
" ſo that it paſſes into the blood with the
" utmoſt facility. It ſhould be moreover ob-
" ſerved, that, in this form, *Antimony may*
" *be given in the moſt agreeable manner,*
" *without even being perceived, or creating*
" *any more diſtate than the wine it was made*
" *on.* A thing of ſome conſequence tru-
" ly, when we have to do with ſqueamiſh
" patients, particularly with children, to whom
" it may be neceſſary to give repeated doſes

* It is true: but, we have ſaid all along that theſe remedies require a ſkilful and judicious hand; and we have proved that THEY were *ſkilful*, THEY were *judicious*, *thoſe hands* which firſt prepared the *quack medicines* which contain ſome of theſe dangerous ingredients.

" of

" of the medicine, &c." . . . . . and a little farther he adds; " ſhould it be imagined " that this medicine, being ſo ſafe and eaſy, " can have no great efficacy as an alterative " and diaphoretic, I anſwer, that as it is capa- " ble in a proper doſe, of irritating the ſto- " mach and inteſtines ſo ſtrongly, *it cannot* " *be ſuppoſed, even in very ſmall doſes, to lie in-* " *active in the ſanguineous and lymphatic ar-* " *teries*; and both ſeems, and eventually is, " exceedingly well calculated to ſtimulate " and ſcour the whole vaſcular ſyſtem . . . . . " and *ſome ſuch ſtimulus is very often* HIGHLY " *neceſſary in the ultimate ramifications of the* " *ſanguineous, ſerous, and lymphatic arteries* " where the MOTION IS EXCEEDING SLOW, " and where STAGNATION, and CONSEQUENT " CORRUPTION OF THE SERUM AND LYMPH " ARE VERY APT TO GENERATE A PUTRID " COLLUVIES . . . . . By thus univer- " ſally ſtimulating, therefore, not only the " greateſt but alſo the ſmalleſt veſſels of the " body, *this medicine* GREATLY TENDS TO " REMOVE *all obſtructions formed, or forming,* " *even in the* MINUTEST CANALS, and hence " moſt ſucceſsfully *promotes the natural ſecre-* " *tions and excretions,* IN WHICH DULY PER- " FORMED, HEALTH ITSELF CONSISTS.——

"*In obſtinate* RHEUMATISMS *then, in cold*
"SCORBUTIC *affections, in moſt* CUTANEOUS
"DISEASES, in aſthmatic, leucophlegmatic,
"and icteric diſorders, in old ſtubborn head-
"achs, vertigo, epilepſy, and mania, ANTI-
"MONIALS ARE VERY USEFUL, *and the vi-*
"*num antimoniale* in particular, &c, &c."

And thus a great many authorities, from the greateſt Doctors, might be collected to evince the merits of thoſe two exquiſitely excellent minerals, MERCURY and ANTIMONY. But, it is hoped that, without treſpaſſing any longer on the patience of our readers, the few we have collected here together will prove fully ſufficient, to juſtify thoſe two lately diſparaged ingredients of the *materia medica*, and their employers, from the doubts raiſed againſt their ſafety and the malicious aſperſions which Dr. GOLDSMITH's and Mr. SCAWEN's caſes had unjuſtly given an opportunity to a certain party to throw againſt them, in order to prejudice the mind of that part of the generality which is unconverſant with the virtues or vices of drugs, and the nature of pharmaceutical preparations.

SECTION

## SECTION III.

### Of the SCURVY and GOUT,

*And a certain well known Remedy calculated for the purpoſe * of eradicating thoſe two troubleſome Diſorders.*

AFTER having thus fought the long pendent cauſe of Quacks and their Medicines, as well as that of Minerals: after having

* What have, or *may* have, been the actuating principles, motives or views which ever animated the proprietors of medicines in general, I will not be ſo indiſcreet as to make it my buſineſs to enquire into. Too well do I know, that the moſt favourable opinion is not entertained of them, not only by the faculty, but even by ſome very ſenſible, and unprejudiced, people of real character; and that an avaricious and covetous diſpoſition, accompanied with a perfect indifference and careleſſneſs concerning the individuals of ſociety, and whether theſe ſuffer or benefit by their remedies, is but too generally laid to their charge. Neither will I take upon me to exculpate them from the accuſation; although, I muſt confeſs, it appears to me a very abſurd one, and of

having proved by the moſt irreſiſtible arguments, not far fetched, but all taken in and from

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of a nature ſo inconſiſtent with their own intereſts, that it does not ſeem very credible, or probable, that any perſon whatever could be guilty of it; ſince it muſt carry along with it, *prima facie*, a total ruin and deſtruction of the very thing itſelf they wiſh to promote, and on the ſucceſs of which they muſt build their proſpect of future proſperity, fortune and happineſs.---But, be it however it will, conſcious of my own integrity, and of the uprightneſs of my views; perfectly reſting on the ſolacious confidence that I have only and ſolely been intent on ſearching out the true cauſe of the complaints for the relief of which my medicine is calculated, that I might really ſucceed in inveſtigating a mode of cure by the united efforts of the moſt efficacious ingredients which the *materia medica* could afford: it is the reaſon why I am not aſhamed of laying my practice in general before the judicious Public. Now, with ſuch free, candid and open proceeding, I ſhall leave them to judge, afterwards, how far I may deſerve to ſhare, with ſome of my brethren, that ſeverity of cenſure which is gone forth againſt advertiſed remedies. True it is, however, that I have the ſatisfaction to be able to declare that mine perſonally has never been called in queſtion. To which ſome arch-critics, will perhaps oppoſe, that this may be owing more to a want of reputation in the medicine, than to a ſuperiority in point of merit. But, I have again here another ſatisfaction in anſwering, that far from this being the caſe, all the news papers, of either of the three kingdoms, may evince that, within theſe *two* years, I have always publiſhed *ten good, and well authenticated, cures*, to my moſt able and worthy ANTAGONIST, *a ſingle one*.---Notwithſtanding all this, the pride I derive from the confirmed excellence of my own remedy, never will blind me ſo much as not to acknowledge that there are many very good and valuable ones under the ſame

from the very nature of the ſubject itſelf, that the former are, truly and literally ſpeaking, uſeful members of ſociety; and the latter ſure, ſafe, and powerful remedies, when judiciouſly prepared, and prudently introduced into the ſeveral receſſes of our fabric: I think I ſhall not be deemed unjuſtifiable if I now hazard to ſay a word of myſelf and my own remedy, the nature of its compoſition, its effects, and the method I purſue in the adminiſtration of it. In doing it, however, I ſhall endeavour to be as ſhort as poſſible; though, at the ſame time, I muſt beg leave to communicate a few previous reflections on the SCURVY and GOUT, which occurred to me in the courſe of my practice.

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denomination of mine, viz. of QUACK; as alſo there are others which, to judge from the words themſelves, and context of their own advertiſements, favour but too ſtrongly, and, I am afraid, too juſtly, it muſt be allowed, the cenſures paſſed upon them. How to draw the line between the two, is what it does not become me to attempt to give directions for; and, to tell the truth, it is alſo a taſk which might perhaps be found attended with no ſmall difficulty in the execution. For, there are in the world, learned and ingenious, as well as illiterate rogues, who will always be found a match too ſtrong for the little nibbling critics of empiriciſm.

## SCURVY.

THE diſorder of the SCURVY, till within theſe twenty or thirty years, was, in point of cure, but very little better off than the GOUT, which, to this day, is generally underſtood to be incurable, becauſe no one knows yet the nature of that diſorder.—— However, we have now the ſatisfaction to find that the SCURVY is no longer, of late, ſo rebellious againſt the remedies which have been invented to conquer it; and that ſuch have been diſcovered at laſt, which have the power of extirpating it intirely out of the human body.—Why an earlier ſucceſs was not obtained from the many endeavours which were firſt made to cure it, I think I can aſcribe to THREE very capital errors in the proceſs of the FACULTY, that ſo much boaſted and illuſtrious body of wiſdom and ſagacity, that bright morning ſtar, whoſe darting rays inſtead of guiding our ſteps, and directing the underſtanding of their offſprings, have, it ſeems, like an *Ignis-fatuus*, hurried them, rather, into more crafts, ſuperſtitions,

ſtitions *, and blunders, than real and uſeful diſcoveries.

THE FIRST I ſhall accuſe them of, is their recommending *Cathartics* and *Diaphoretics*, the one to purge, the other to ſweat, the humours out of the body. Be the complaint whatever it will, a pimpled eruption, a dry ſcurf, or a running ulcer, the only reply from the FACULTY is always the ſame, *viz*: *Oh! purge it out*; or *ſweat it out, by all means*;

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* Witneſs the human ſkull formerly (and perhaps even now) uſed in the compoſition of the *cinnabar-pills* or powders for the epilepſy and convulſion-fits, againſt which Dr. FULLER, in his *Pharmacopœia extemporanea*, printed in London, 1714, page 372, exclaims highly, and very juſtly, in the following terms, immediately after the *Recipe*.---"*This preſcript*," ſays he, "*is in compliance with* "*the cuſtom of practice*; *but, for my own part, I declare I* "*abominate it*: *For, I take man's ſkull to be a mere dry bone*, "*void of virtue, or any manner of effect, but alſo a naſty*, "*mortified, putrid carioniſh piece of our own ſpecies* . . . . . "&c." This is undoubtedly a moſt curious piece of *mountebankiſm* and *charlatannery*, if ever there was any; and more worthy of the ultramontane ſuperſtitious enthuſiaſts, than of a people diſengaged from the monkiſh prejudices of old times: and ſhould WE, *quacks* or *empiricks* (whatever be the appellation by which we may be deſigned) be guilty of ſuch, or ſimilar, practices and ſuperſtitious abſurdities, we ſhould never hear the end of it. Was I however, to collect all thoſe the *regular-bred* phyſicians and apotheraries, are guilty of, I doubt not but I could make a pamphlet of a tolerable ſize, filled with an amazing variety, indeed, of the higheſt rate nonſenſe.

*the*

*the more out the better*, and ſo on; and *that* they do, till, at laſt, the poor patient is ſo weakened, that he has hardly any humour all, good or bad, nor juices left in his body to throw out any longer. Then, when this is the caſe, the general concluſion is, that he is a great deal better, or, quite well. But, he no ſooner begins to feed again as uſual, than the diſorder returns, and keeps in its increaſe the ſame pace with the recovery of the much exhauſted patient's ſtrength. Then, another ſcheme, as expedient and as well concerted as the preceding, is again thought of: and, having failed of ſucceſs by the laſt attempt, like Dr. LAST, they think if the enemy would not go out at one door, *why* .... *ſure* they muſt open the other. To this effect, the poor patient is ſerved with a medicine to vomit, and ſometimes (Oh! dreadful to relate) to operate *all-fours* at once; that is to ſay, they purge, they vomit, they ſweat and they urine him all together.——Could one imagine our learned maſters, thoſe *ſons* and *hands* of GODS, ſhould be guilty of ſuch abſurdities? Abſurdities and violences which ſhake to its very foundation the human fabric!——What would we think of that man who, giving himſelf for an adept in arts and

and machineries, and being intruſted with a curious and valuable piece of mechaniſm to repair, ſhould follow ſuch ſteps, and begin to ſhake, ſtrain and tear it before our eyes with that ſame violence? Sure, we never would ſuffer him to go on with it, but take it again out of the hands of ſuch a bluſtering fellow.—And, now, is not our body a finer piece of mechaniſm, and a much more delicate one, than any which ever was produced by man? How is it, then, that we are ſo little ſenſible of the great abſurdity of uſing it with leſs caution, care and tenderneſs, than we would *one* out of Cox's Museum?—To thoſe unmerciful purgers, ſweaters, and other ſuch like patrons of promoted ſecretions, that is to ſay, ſecretions increaſed beyond the common and cuſtomary pitch obſerved by Nature *, I would propoſe only this queſtion. —What

* No one I ſuppoſe will have the ſimplicity to believe (though ſome artful ignorant practitioners might perhaps be found who ſay it) that purgatives are endowed with any ſuch particular virtue as will throw out by ſtool, ſweatings and other emunctories, the bad humours *only* out of the body, and *not* the good ones. To fancy ſo, would be laughable indeed. Neither muſt I be underſtood to mean, that no medicine muſt ever be given, which has the power of ſweating, vomiting, &c. For,

——What proportion do the humours bear to the whole maſs of the blood? To cut ſhort, we ſhall ſuppoſe it to be a *twentieth*. Now, would any one think it very eligible to purge, ſweat or otherwiſe *excrete* NINETEEN good, for the benefit of getting rid of ONE bad, parts? . . . . . I think not.—Beſides; what advantage would they obtain by that? And, if on *twenty* pounds of fluid, *one* of humours is to be defalcated: ſhould you evaporate the whole together to *one ſcruple*, would you not always find in that ſcruple ſtill *one grain* of humours?—I will ſay no more, nor lay greater ſtreſs on that ſubject, but leave every one to judge for

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there are, undoubtedly, caſes in which it is required. I blame that proceſs, therefore, only when it is applied to the diſorders of the blood, ſuch as the *Scurvy*, the *Gout*, the *Rheumatiſm*, *pimpled Faces*, *Eruptions*, *dry and moiſt Scurfs*, &c, &c, and adminiſtered with the abſurd intent of carrying theſe noxious humours out of it. It is then, I ſay, the purging, ſweating, &c, is wrong, and contrary to all reaſon and experience. Purging and vomiting can only relieve obſtructions, and foulneſs in the firſt paſſages, the ſtomach, the bowels, &c, and act as a rough bruſh in a pipe or a funnel to ſcour them.—Purging and ſweating are, by a great deal, too much the practice of hoſpitals: whence comes that theſe have been under the neceſſity of turning out their patients as incurable, and, many times, worſe of the diſorder, and in a weaker ſtate of their body, than when they went in.

himſelf,

himſelf, according to his own private ſenſe, of the rationability of ſuch proceedings.

THE SECOND error, I find the FACULTY have been guilty of falling into, is that of uſing ointments, in order to cure the ſcorbutic eruptions, ulcers, and other outward teſtimonies of that diſorder lodging in a ſubject. To be ſure, when thoſe complaints firſt made their appearance among us, as they were attended with heat, inflammation and irritation, it was natural enough, ſome will ſay perhaps, to think of applying thereto ſome outward remedies, eſpecially as they aſcribed to ſuch ointments, as were made of certain particular cooling herbs, a much greater power than they really were inveſted with. But, they were then, and ſo ſtill are undoubtedly now, thoſe who continue ſuch a practice, moſt egregiouſly miſtaking and wrong in every reſpect. For, firſt of all, they did not conſider how little, at any time, of the virtues of any herb, an unctuous preparation can take and retain. Beſides, the baſis of thoſe ointments being hog's lard, this, by greaſing the affected parts, ſtops up the pores, and, thereby, ruins the good intention of Nature, by oppoſing her throwing out the corrupted humours,

humours, which obſtruction can be, in the end, but productive of a repulſion * of them into the ſtream, and thus haſten, and compleat, the total corruption of the whole maſs.—For, ſo it is ordered and managed by Dame Nature, with reſpect to our bodies, as well as it is with plants †, that there muſt be a perpetual

* Though the FACULTY are very ſenſible of the dangerous conſequences which attend *repelling* remedies; yet they ſtill give purges under the notion of carrying the humours out of the body. This practice, in my opinion, is the ſame as if they applied drying and healing ointments to the part afflicted; and I ſee no ſort of difference in the proceſs. For, moſt certainly, by carrying off the cauſes of fermentation, which produced the ulcer, and a ſuppuration at the mouth of it, which was a real diſcharge of the bad humours out of the blood, the evacuation muſt ceaſe, for want of the active principles which promoted it; and, therefore, the noxious putridity muſt float again and mingle itſelf a new with the ſtream, and increaſe its corruption. Purges, in ſuch a caſe, draw the humours back. And, pray, where is the difference between pulling a man into a ditch by ſtanding behind him, or puſhing him into it, by ſtanding before? I ſee none.

† It is a well known obſervation in botany, among the anatomiſts of that claſs, that all plants whatever, from the ligneous to the herbaceous, have a ramification of deſcending veſſels, by means of which they imbibe inwardly the dew which falls upon them in the night, or the moſt ſubtile and ſpirituous parts of the day-ſhowers, from the top of their branches and extremities of their leaves downwards to their roots; in the ſame manner as they draw upwards, by means of their roots, and the in-

petual, and inceſſant, free flowing of liquors to and fro through the pores of our ſkins, which circulation

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terior channels of their branches and ſtalks, the ſap which ſerves to their growth.---It is proved, likewiſe, that plants breathe and ſweat; if, by this laſt word, we are admitted to underſtand to throw out, by means of emunctories, certain excretious, and redundant, humours contained in the veſſels of a living body. Thoſe emunctories exiſt in plants: and theſe throw off, at their mouths, which are open in innumerable quantities, on the exterior part of the ſkin or bark, either along the ſtalk or branches, or even on the ſurface of the leaves, a matter, ſeldom perceivable to the naked eye, but which, if mixed with duſt or dirt, and not waſhed down, by natural rain or artificial waterings, will prove in a ſhort time the deſtruction of the plant.---Such is the reaſon why ſo many plants, ſuch as *Myrtles*, *Geraniums*, &c, and other ſhrubs, which people are ſo fond of keeping in apartments, ſeldom live to ſee another year's ſummer, and, at beſt, always look ſickly. The corpuſcles of duſt or dirt, which fly about in the cleaneſt apartments, and which the very cleaning of thoſe which are kept in the beſt order will occaſion, ſettle on the leaves, ſtalks and barks of thoſe arbuſcles, and there, fixed and retained by the imperceptible drops of their ſweat or glutinous matter, thrown out by the aforeſaid emunctories, ſoon ſtop up their pores and prevent that neceſſary purification of the plants. Thoſe other mouths, which ſerve to breathe in the dampneſs of a free circulating air, bringing in, likewiſe, nothing but atoms of a dry ſubtilized and hungry matter, which adheres to the ſides of thoſe ſmall channels, intended to carry downwards the moiſt particles ſwimming in an open air, ſuck up on the contrary the little moiſture they may be already provided with, and ſoon choak them up alſo. Thus the circulation being ſtopped, and the plant ſupplied with an exceſſive and ſurabundant quantity of water, which moſt people

circulation is no ſooner ſtopped *, or glued up, as is the effect of ointments, but fevers, dimneſs,

have the bad habit of keeping perpetually in pans under the pot, the root ſoon rots, becauſe, deprived of its proper and uſual evacuations, through the emunctories, the draught is neceſſarily ſtopped, and it can no longer ſip any thing: therefore the water of the pans, inſtead of waſting away by the conſummation and feeding of the plant, ſtagnates and putrifies; and the plant, after having withered a great while, dies at laſt.---Another contrary experiment will ſerve to corroborate the truth of the above aſſertion. If in a clean part of a garden, where the dampneſs of the air prevents any duſt from flying about, you keep a plant and water the head, ſo that the leaves, tender branches, and ſtalk only ſhould be moiſtened every day, but not the root, you will find it will thrive very nearly as much as if it was watered at the root, provided however, you let it enjoy a free, open, and circulating air, without which all trials will be of no ſervice, and all plants whatever will always be found pining after, and draw themſelves as thin as a thread, and, at laſt, to death.

* With another experiment, we may convince ourſelves, ſtill more forcibly, of the neceſſity of keeping the pores of our ſkin as free and open as poſſible, and diſengaged from any ointment and glutinous matter (ſuch as *paint*, *rouge*, and other dangerous ingredients) which may depoſit into thoſe ſmall channels any atom likely to ſtop them, without a poſſibility of removing the obſtruction afterwards.---Caterpillars, from the largeſt to the ſmalleſt ſize, are ſo conſtructed that, along each of their ſides, there is in every one of the rings which form their body a little ſpeck viſible to the naked eye: that little ſpeck is the orifice, or mouth, of a ſmall channel which communicates to their inteſtines. If, therefore, you paſs a light feather, dipt into oil, along their ſides over

neſs, violent head-aches, &c. enſue, and often worſe conſequences ſtill happen. And, indeed, it requires not any uncommon ſhare of underſtanding to conceive that it is poſitively barring up the very doors which ſhould be kept open for the enemy to come out at, while *You* or *Nature*, or perhaps both together, are, with united efforts, endeavouring to work out of the blood the heterogeneous particles

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thoſe ſmall ſpecks, or holes, ſo that theſe ſhould be all covered with a thin coat of oil, the animal will fall into convulſions, and expire, immediately.---From the various experiments, and obſervations, mentioned in this and the precedent note, I wiſh our fair partners would take hint that, without recurring to the Eaſt, or South, without the uſe of Seraglio's waſhes, Sultanas' paints, and pomatums, &c, the mere attention to waſh and bathe themſelves often is the beſt and moſt efficacious way to preſerve their health; and, if ſo, the ſureſt to preſerve, nay to increaſe, the brilliancy of their ſkin and power of their charms. I could enter into greater particulars, and ſhew the neceſſity of certain other ablutions, the want, or neglect, of which is the ſole cauſe of the dulneſs, or deadneſs of the complexion of ſome of them, for which they erroneouſly recur to art and pomatums, which deſtroys intirely the foundation of their natural beauty; while, by other means, of the ſimpleſt kind, that cleanlineſs would produce the deſirable effect. I ſhall, therefore, ſay no more on a ſubject which may now be ſufficiently underſtood by the intelligent; and to which it is my wiſh, for the intereſt I take in the real merit of my fair country-women, in point of beauty, they ſhould pay a due regard in future.

which

which are producing in it the fermentation of thoſe poiſonous ingredients which are the firſt cauſe of the diſorder.——Therefore, I conclude that an ointment * muſt be conſidered, at beſt, as a check to the evacuation of Nature, and her purging herſelf, through her own ducts and emunctories.

THE THIRD material error, I accuſe the FACULTY of, and which *they* having in common with the public, the *latter* muſt have ſucked from *them*, or *they* have had the weakneſs to adopt from *it*, is their recommending ſo ſtrongly the uſe of vegetables, ſuch, for inſtance, as brooklime, water-creſſes, ſcurvy-graſs, &c, &c, and all on no other foundation but their happening to have been found indeed of real ſervice in the caſe of the *ſea ſcurvy*.—They do not conſider that theſe two diſorders,

* One reaſon, I ſuppoſe, why ointments have been uſed repeatedly in theſe caſes, has been from their ſucceſs in curing the *itch*, before the cauſe of that diſagreeable diſorder was known to be owing to *animalculæ* (or ſmall inſects) which nothing but external application will deſtroy, and againſt which internal remedies avail nothing. ---In bad legs, ulcers, &c, there is a neceſſity of uſing an ointment, to keep the ſtocking, or linen, from eating in. But theſe, being of no other uſe, cannot be depended on, as they will not deſtroy the cauſe.

though

though of ſimilar chriſtening, are as diſtinct, different, and oppoſite in their nature, ſpecies and characters, as the very cauſes and principles themſelves which give them riſe.—At ſea, for example, the ſcurvy is brought on a ſubject by long voyages, cloſe confinement, and ſalt proviſions, which will produce a putrid alkaline ſtate of the body. Now, in no caſe whatever HYPPOCRATES's *aphoriſm* (diſeaſes are cured by contraries) is, or can be perhaps, more perſpicuouſly elucidated. For, alter all the circumſtances aforeſaid, ſea to land, ſalt proviſions to freſh, cloſe confinement to liberty, ſtinking cribs to ſweet and well aired rooms, ſmothered air to that of free and openly circulating, with the addition of plenty of greens and freſh water, and you will ſoon find the ſtate of the man altered alſo. But, is there any thing more natural to be expected than when the cauſe is no more, which produced a certain effect, that effect ſhould ceaſe likewiſe? Or, *ſublatâ cauſâ tollitur effectus* would never have been one of the leading maxims of philoſophy. And it is too true and fundamental a one that, in any diſorder whatever, the moſt ſkilful phyſician aims at nothing ſo much as inveſtigating the cauſe whence it ſprings, that he may deſtroy

ſtroy or remove it; ſure as he is, and good ſenſe muſt make him, that the preſent effect before him muſt unavoidably ceaſe: which, in the eye of the public, and in the judgment of his patient, will be termed and deemed a cure, and *one indeed will be* if ſuch a thing can be wrought by human ſkill.

Now, in the caſe of the *land-ſcurvy*, which I call by that name in compliance only to common prejudice and general notion, and in order to be underſtood, the ſymptoms are as different as the ſource whence it originates. For, the cauſe of the *ſcurvy* at land, as well as I can conjecture from experience, (and that experience I have gathered in attending ſuch a number of patients of that claſs, as eſpecially my *Diſpenſary for the poor* has, from the year 1773, in which I eſtabliſhed it, given me an opportunity of having paſs through my hands) ſeems to me to be nothing but the effect of frights, ſurfeits, and other accidents, the ſudden, fortuitous and unexpected event of which turns inſtantaneouſly all our blood. Sometimes, too, it is owing to, and may be the natural conſequence of, an irrational indulgence of our pleaſures and appetites, eſpecially in the eating and drinking way; by means of which

which thoſe copious, oppoſite and unwholeſome foods fermenting in our ſtomach, without being aſſiſted by due exerciſe, produce an univerſal ſloth, which enervates our bodies to ſuch a degree that the juices which ſhould ſerve to the nutrition of its parts ſoon ſtagnate, and, like ſtinking pools, turn into poiſon.—So that, though the firſt ſymptoms are diſcovered in the out-parts, nevertheleſs it is then clear the cauſe originates always from the receivers of the ſtomach, infected by a corrupted ſlime, from long and accumulated indigeſtions.

However, that patient is not uncommon, nor difficult to be found, who, not conſidering all theſe too true, though miſregarded and unattended to, circumſtances, will burſt out into an exclamation, that "he never had any "thing which broke out before in his life, &c," or ſome ſort of ſuch ſpeech ſimilar to this; as if we could expect to go through life without any manner of moleſtation, grievance or accident whatever, either of mind or body? And ſhould we even meet but with pains of the mind, there are but few, I ſuppoſe, to be found who are not acquainted with the dire effects they will often have on the body, and how

how much this will find itſelf affected by them!

DISORDERS of this kind are not formed all at once; they take time: time, therefore, muſt be employed in the removing of them. And I wiſh this might be underſtood as a precept, and conſidered as an univerſal regulator to go and abide by, as a ſafe one and none ſafer: never to attempt to *cure in a hurry a diſeaſe which is grown to a head by ſlow progreſs.*——Neither do I think, even, that a ſudden change from a bad (I mean an exceſſive and irregular) diet *, or way of liv-

* I am ſo ſtrongly perſuaded, from many obſervations and remarks I have had an opportunity to make, that moſt part of our diſorders ariſe from a weakneſs of our ſtomach, (which is, and unavoidably muſt be, productive of, or attended with, a neceſſary inability of digeſting many of our aliments) that I have that circumſtance particularly in my eye, when I am compoſing, or preparing, my medicine; wherefore, my chief tendency, in ſome of the ingredients I make uſe of, is to ſtrengthen the organs of the ſtomach.---I have alſo, with reſpect to *diet*, (whenever I am conſulted on that ſubject) made it my conſtant and general rule always to recommend patients to pay a very particular attention to what food agrees beſt with their ſtomach, and what does not; then, to adopt the firſt, and reject entirely the laſt. For, that only is healthful, and will be found to nouriſh, which agrees beſt with our conſtitution, and which we digeſt with eaſe, without cauſing riſings, nauſeas, wind, &c.

ing, into a perfectly good and regular one, is recommendable. A gradual alteration, in the mode of life which may have produced the evil, aſſiſted with proper remedies, will always be found to cure with certainty, and re-eſtabliſh a good conſtitution; when another method of proceeding would be raſh, and might kill poſitively.

## G O U T.

GOUT, a well known diſorder by its dreadful effects, is notwithſtanding acknowledged to be uninveſtigated yet, as for its cauſe, or rather, its nature. However, this muſt be underſtood no farther than that nothing certain yet, and demonſtrated to pellucid evidence, can be ſaid to have been diſcovered concerning it. For, pretty rational conjectures may be, and have indeed been really, formed, which, although they cannot be conſidered as amounting altogether to mathematical demonſtration, help however ſo well to account for the ravages it produces in the human frame, that, with their aſſiſtance, ſuch precepts may be given, ſuch preſcriptions laid down, as, when obſerved, will infallibly prove ſalutary enough

to afford relief; and, if purſued and adhered to with ſedateneſs and perſeverance, might, I think, produce in time a perfect cure alſo.

As for my part, without being willing to preſume on my own abilities on the ſubject, nor to aſſume the airs of an inveſtigator of thoſe ſecret cauſes which proved the ſtumbling-block of ſo many others before me, I will only humbly declare, that, as well as I can judge from long practice and experience, the GOUT appears to me to take its ſource from one and the ſame principle with what is vulgarly called the LAND-SCURVY, *viz.* intemperance in appetites, accumulated indigeſtions, ſloth and want of exerciſe. The difference, therefore, lies in the effects only reſulting from this ſimilitude of principles. Is that effect a coarſe, heavy, ſlimy humour which paſſes into the blood? The *ſcurvy* then, attended with all its uſual and dreadful appendages, that is to ſay ulcers, dry and moiſt ſcurfs, eruptions, pimples, &c, is the conſequence. Is it, on the contrary, a fermentation, in the firſt reſervoirs of the ſtomach? (A fermentation we all know very well, is always attended with a volatilization of the moſt ſubtile particles of the putrified matter.)

THEN, it is thoſe volatilized particles, of that ſour, fermented, undigeſted food, which paſs into the blood, and produce thoſe ravages ſo well known under the name of the GOUT. If therefore, you continue to aſk me now what I think the GOUT is: I anſwer I firmly believe it is nothing but *a ſubtile, volatile, corroding ſpirit*, raiſed from the fermentation of ſundry, multifarious, incoherent, incompatible foods, corrupted to ſourneſs and putrefaction, in the firſt reſervoirs of the ſtomach, before that diſſolution, or, which is the ſame, regular and perfect digeſtion, could take place. ——And this, I believe, will not be found either contradictory to, or even diſcordant with, the excruciating pains it cauſes in the affected parts, nor with the ſwellings and inflammations by which thoſe pains are acccompanied.—To be more pungent ſtill, in my deſcription, I will compare the GOUT again to the bite of a viper. In this caſe, no one will offer to deny that this moſt imperceptible drop of liquor, depoſited by the animal into the wound, muſt be a moſt ſubtile ſpirit, ſince it ruſhes into the blood, and diffuſes itſelf all over it with ſuch an amazing ſwiftneſs and celerity that in a few hours, nay in a few minutes, the whole body is in convulſion.—But it is a

poiſon,

poiſon, will you ſay? I admit of it, and I add that ſo is the GOUT alſo a poiſon, a true poiſon, and a moſt ſubtile one. The bite of a mad dog, inſomuch as it infuſes a ſort of poiſon which is longer lurking about internally before it breaks out into any ſymptoms, ſubſides again for a while, then returns into freſh fits, &c, by a continual ſucceſſion of rages and peaceable moments, might perhaps claim here the preference in point of compariſon over that of the viper: but, nevertheleſs, the depoſited matter, which produces the madneſs, is as well as the other, that of the viper, a *volatile ſpirit*; like again a certain other which taints the blood after impure acts of venery, and they are all comparable together in point of volatility. The only difference is, that the one (the GOUT) we breed ourſelves inwardly; we receive all the others, above-mentioned, from outward accidental cauſes.

THE GOUT, in fact, is a nervous diſorder which puts on more ſhapes and forms than we have been aware of; ſince we have miſtaken it often for Hyſtericks, Hypocondriac affections, Cholics, Rheumatiſms, and other lowneſs of ſpirits, all diſorders which are nothing indeed

indeed but the very GOUT itſelf. And I ſhould be tempted to make a very odd compariſon of it. For, as the ANANAS (vulgarly known under the name of *Pine-Apple*) is conſidered as containing the taſte and flavour of many different fruits, ſo a great many diſorders of the body are, under different appellations, to be found in the GOUT. Thus, when it is in the ſtomach, it frequently cauſes ſuch a weakneſs and ſickneſs * that ſcarce any thing will agree with it: and, by corroding the nerves of that part, there reſults, ſpaſms, or numbneſs, on the face, as it were a paralytic ſtroke. Then the patient will be uncommonly croſs and peeviſh.—If in the bowels, it will produce pains, gripings, and continual going to ſtool, —If in the hands or feet, frequent cramps and burning, with a fixed pain, till they ſwell, is the conſequence.—In ſhort, ſuch is the nature of the GOUT, that often a gentle purge will

* It has been the common and general opinion of the FACULTY, that this ſickneſs was a fore-runner of the GOUT. But, I am of opinion, that it is the very GOUT itſelf; nor ſhall we find much difficulty in being certain of it, when we reflect on the amazing celerity with which any thing of acrimonious nature, externally applied, penetrates to the utmoſt receſſes of our fabric. Whence we muſt be ſenſible that a poiſonous matter in the ſtomach muſt be more volatile ſtill, as it is encouraged by the conſtant heat of that part.

throw

throw the weight of the humour on the lower extremities; which trick, the REGULARS being well acquainted with, they never fail, when they ſee that humour flying about the body and unſettled, to make uſe of; and, to give themſelves an air of conſequence, they affect to tell their patients that they cannot expect to be well without the GOUT, and it is the only means of being relieved from that univerſal pain under which they labour. The name of GOUT having nothing frightful, and examples of people of all ages who have had it, and kept it a great while, being abundant, the patient wiſhes he may have it: then the phyſician, ſays he can give it him, if he chuſes, to which the patient agrees; the purge is adminiſtered, and the firſt fit of the GOUT is felt. Such is the proceſs of what is generally known under the name of giving a perſon the GOUT. But, had not that perſon been unluckily furniſhed with the materials, all the art of his phyſician could not have given it him.

*En paſſant*, it will not be improper to take notice here that, contrary to a certain old prejudice, which I do not ſuppoſe my authority will be ſufficient to remove, the GOUT

is not confined, as many imagine, to one particular claſs of people, *viz.* the great, the learned, the ſedentary, and the wealthy: but, that the poor are more often afflicted with it, than is imagined. Which obſervation convinces us of this remarkable truth, that no age, nor condition, or rank whatever, is, or can be, exempt from the diſeaſes incumbent to the human ſpecies. And that childhood and old age, the two extremities of life, are, from the natural ſtate of infirmity which attends them, more liable to them than the middle, in which what we ſuffer is more owing to our own irregularities than any thing elſe.

THERE is another grand cauſe of the GOUT, and SCURVY which I would not forget to mention, and which is our victuals turning ſour * upon our ſtomach; an accident which is

* I do not know of any thing which breeds the leproſy ſo faſt as this acid ſtate of the ſtomach: in which caſe, I frequently preſcribe alkalies with ſucceſs.---And now, ſpeaking of this happy, and uninterrupted, ſucceſs I always met with, in recommending contraries, to correct the bad ſtate of the ſtomach, in weak conſtitutions, I muſt not forget to ſeize this opportunity of making a reflection which, if duly attended to, will prove of infinite ſervice and utility to a great many; wherefore, I will communicate it here both to my readers and my patients. ---It

is notified to us, by that acid matter which is fome-

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---It is proved, that nothing, but a proper proportion of *alkalies* and *acids*, can form, what is called, a *good* and *ſtrong* conſtitution. That wherever one of theſe two qualities is predominant in a body, this is what we underſtand by a *weak* and *delicate* conſtitution; becauſe there will be ſome ſort of aliments which, diſagreeing with the ſtomach of that perſon, will not digeſt, and, therefore, will hurt it; and that ſtomach will be ſaid to be poor and weak. But, in ſuch a caſe, was that perſon only to enquire into the nature of that ſort of aliment he finds diſagreeing with him, and whether it be of an *alkaline*, or of an *acid*, quality, he would ſoon find that this diſagreeing is owing to nothing but his conſtitution happening to be preciſely of the ſame quality with that ſort of food which moſt diſagrees with him: therefore, that, as that ſort of quality is already predominant in him, that is to ſay out of due proportion with the other, that aliment increaſes ſtill more that predominancy, and cannot, of courſe, but abſolutely diſagree with his ſtomach. Whence he muſt conclude that, by uſing other ſorts of aliments, of the oppoſite quality, and conſequently contrary to that which is predominant in his conſtitution, they certainly would agree perfectly well, and never cauſe him any pain; becauſe, in the diſſolution they are to undergo by digeſtion, they would furniſh that ſort of quality which is moſt deficient in his conſtitution, and thereby counterpoiſe the predominancy of the other. And thus it is that, by a proper and watchful attention to the effects we perceive that our aliments produce in us, we might ſave ourſelves a great many diſorders to which, for want of it, we become a prey. For, this is the real, and only, reaſon why we find ſome people who ſhall be fond of lemons, oranges, currants, gooſberies, vinegar, verjus, punch, lemonade, &c, &c; while others will dread nothing ſo much. The former are evidently of a predominant *alkaline*, and the latter of a predominant *acid*, conſtitu-

ſometimes thrown up, and which ſets our teeth

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tion.---Therefore, we muſt then not leave this ſubject, without making again this other moſt prudent and rational reflection. Firſt, That people ſhould be more cautious in recommending certain diets, or remedies, to others, on that ſole ground, that they themſelves have received great benefit from them; and without being previouſly acquainted with their natural quality, and that of their own conſtitution; for, they may very well fail with others, although they have ſucceeded with them; and that by the ſole reaſon of the difference of conſtitution. In, the ſecond place, and by the ſame parity of argument, we muſt not, therefore, wonder ſo much, as we are apt to do, at the little, or no, benefit we derive ſometimes from preſcriptions, of the medical or diet kind, we receive from our friends, to whom, notwithſtanding, we know it for certain theſe have done good, in a caſe ſimilar to ours; nor blame, at other times, thoſe ſame friends, and impeach their good intention, for having recommended a thing to us, as of ſervice and beneficial in that particular caſe, while we ourſelves receive none at all, nay, even a real hurt ſometimes, inſtead of the good we expected; becauſe it is inconteſtable that the difference of conſtitution is the ſole, and only, cauſe of that failure of the preſcription with us.---THEREFORE, now, with a candour in which I glory the more, as it is leſs expected from a man of my profeſſion, I will further declare that the above reaſons are the ſame why ſome of the advertiſed medicines, though really good in themſelves, and abſolutely capable of effecting a cure in the caſes for which they are calculated, are ſometimes, however, found to fail of ſucceſs with certain people, who, in trying of another medicine of the ſame ſtamp, and prepared for the ſame purpoſe by another advertiſer, will happily be cured. The failure of the firſt, conſidered in its true light, is no more a detriment to its merit and character, than the ſucceſs of the ſecond is a proof of its ſuperiority, in

point

teeth on edge; or, again, by the ſmell of rot-

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point of efficacy, over the firſt. The whole ought to be charged only to the account of the conſtitution of the patient who has taken them, and to nothing elſe. The compoſition of the firſt medicine had, with reſpect to the conſtitution of the patient who uſed it, a predominancy of the very quality which happened to be the predominant one alſo of his conſtitution: therefore, it could not agree; therefore, it could not effectuate a cure in that patient. The other medicine happened to be as much predominant the other way, and agreed better of courſe, with the patient's conſtitution, and procured of courſe the deſired cure. For, it is an undoubted truth, though, I fear, little attended to by the FACULTY, that, to produce a cure, a medicine ought to be as much adapted to the nature of the conſtitution of the patient to whom it is adminiſtered, as the aliments ought to be adapted to the nouriſhment thereof. Whence it reſults, and muſt appear evident, that there can be no diſcredit in a medicine for miſſing ſometimes the effect intended by the preparer, and expected by the patient: as there can be no ground of ſuperiority to be derived from, or to rejoice at, the ſucceſs of another on the ſame patient, though it is too often the caſe with, I am ſorry to ſay it, ſome of thoſe preparers when that opportunity comes in their way; which betrays in thoſe of that ſtamp, whoever they be, as great an ignorance of the principles on which they are working, as a bad and corrupted heart, deſtitute of generoſity and ſoiled with thoſe ſordid motives of ſelfiſhneſs and intereſt with which the generality of the advertiſers are reproached. And, a further proof of my aſſertion is, that the ſame reciprocity of advertiſements have often been ſeen from two rival, and antagoniſt, proprietors producing againſt each other acknowledgments of gratitude addreſſed to them for benefits received by the medicine of the one, after having unſucceſsfully uſed that of the other.---But, will ſome ſay, does not this declaration prove preciſely the

ten eggs, and the ſtinking of our breath, owing

objection of the danger which is ſaid to attend the uſe of ſuch powerful medicines? Does it not plainly juſtify the cry raiſed againſt them? Since all conſtitutions, by your own confeſſion, are not alike, and ſince the variety cannot be introduced in a medicine prepared in large quantities at a time for the uſe of thouſands? To which I anſwer in the negative; and ſay, NO; it juſtifies nothing of the uſual exclamations raiſed againſt thoſe medicines; and that *for three reaſons, viz:* The firſt is; becauſe the chief and principal care of the compoſers, or preparers, of thoſe medicines always is to neutralize, as much as poſſible, the *acid*, or *alkaline*, qualities of the ingredients which enter into the compoſition of their medicines, by blending them with a due porportion of their contraries or correctors, ſo as to leave them no ſuch ſufficient ſtrength, force, power or virtue, as would enable them to do the miſchief which otherwiſe might reſult from an uſe of them in their crude ſtate.---The ſecond reaſon is, becauſe, in the bill of directions which never fail being delivered along with thoſe medicines, a proper caution and charge are always given, and ſtrongly inſiſted upon, to begin the uſe of the medicine, firſt with ſuch a particular quantity (and that quantity, it is to be obſerved by the bye, is always the ſmalleſt poſſible, and ſuch a one indeed as would hardly make any impreſſion on the ſtomach of a lark) then to increaſe the doſe gradually, according to the ſcale of quantities given, to ſuch a particular and ſpecified pitch, and NO FARTHER, ſhould it even agree, never ſo well, beyond it; and that if, at any of the preſcribed doſes, the patient ſhould find that the medicine does not agree with his ſtomach, to retrograde back again to that particular doſe which he did find to agree beſt; then make a freſh attempt to riſe as far as the higheſt doſe preſcribed, if poſſible; if not, to return AND KEEP to the lower one, if none higher can do: which very directions, when duly attended and adhered to, fit, as we may ſee, thoſe ſorts of medicines

ing to an alkaline ſtate of our food in the firſt reſervoirs.

IT is the reaſon why acids, and lemons * in particular, are ſaid to be hurtful to perſons afflicted with the GOUT, and theſe are cautioned againſt them.—But there is a method of uſing them, which I would recommend, and, if obſerved, would blunt their malignant effect. About the quantity of a ſcruple of ſalt of tartar, or, of wormwood added to half an ounce of the juice ſqueezed out of a

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dicines to *almoſt* all ſorts of conſtitutions.—But the third, and a very ſtrong, reaſon why my precedent candid declaration does not, either authorize, or juſtify, the clamours raiſed againſt the pretended danger attending the uſe of advertiſed powerful medicines, is again that a proper regimen of life, and rules of diet are preſcribed to the patients in general; the intent and uſe of which are to finiſh in each patient the counter-balancing of the predominant quality which may happen to exiſt in the compoſition of the medicine: ſo that, by a regular, ſtrict, and ſlaviſh adherence to the preſcriptions, of the preparers of thoſe advertiſed medicines, theſe, as we have already ſaid it, will ſuit almoſt every conſtitution, and it is evident no one can poſſibly be hurt, if even ſo much, as a few, may be found, in the crowd, who received not the benefit intended by, and expected from, them. . . . . But, I have ſaid, and expatiated enough already upon this ſubject: therefore, I will quit it for this time, and *verbum non amplius addam.*

* So ſtrong is the acid of lemons, that a knife uſed to cut them is very ſoon eaten in holes.

lemon,

lemon, and mixed with a wine-glaſs, or more, of water, is ſufficient to deſtroy its acidity, as in the ſaline draught. But, too free an uſe of the alkaline ſalt ſhould not be however, encouraged; leſt, from one extreme, we ſhould run into another, and, from an acid ſtate, we fall into an alkaline; which would be as bad, as it is this laſt which generally produces the malignant fevers. Therefore, in every thing, moderation and rules muſt be ſtrictly adhered to; and, the Latin ſaying *ne quid nimis* be our inceſſant guide, in all our actions.

## THE REMEDY.

OF all the diſorders, to which the human frame is liable, none are, none can be incurable; though, many may exiſt now, which have never yet been cured to this day.—This earth we inhabit, of which we make a part, carries, both on its ſurface and in its bowels, every antidote requiſite againſt the accidents which can diſorder the animal œconomy. From the ſurface, we obtain the vegetable; from the bowels, the mineral and metallic, ſubſtances.

Our body, ſupported in its functions by nothing but a perfect equilibrium of aſcending and deſcending powers, cannot inceſ-

ſantly,

ſantly, as it does, exerciſe thoſe powers without ſuffering, at the ſame time, an inceſſant, a neceſſary, an unavoidable waſte of them. That waſte is manifeſted to us by a ſenſation, to which we have given the name of *hunger*. It is that ſenſation which prompts us to introduce into our machine ſuch materials as may contain, according to the conſtitution, and fabric, of each ſpecies, the proper particles to ſupply the deficiency occaſioned by the waſte. Hence food, its neceſſity, and the natural tendency of every animal to imbibe it.

THE ſeeming ſagacity each individual diſcovers, in the choice of the materials which ſuit beſt its conſtitution and conformation, might, I doubt not, be here decorated, by ſome ſort of writers, with the high character, and beautiful names, of direction, inſtruction, inſpiration, or, wiſdom, &c, ſtamped in the animal by Nature. I call it nothing, but a neceſſary conſequence of the principles of its conſtitution. I ſay more: I ſay it is merely the effect of that irreſiſtible tendency, which divided homogeneous particles have, of uniting together. So, that there muſt exiſt an homogeneity, between the parts which conſtitute the ſheep, and the graſs of the fields: and, invertedly,

vertedly, there muſt exiſt alſo a perfect heterogeneity, between that ſame animal and the roaſted, or raw, fleſh of an ox, or that of a turbot; ſince, greedy after the one, he lances towards it, and thrives upon it; while, averſe to either of the other ſort of food, his repugnance to it is ſo ſtrong, that you might ſee him waſte abſolutely to death, ſhould you put, before him, nothing elſe for his ſupport.

The chymical diſſolution of that food, in the pocket of the ſtomach, and which we know by the name of digeſtion, produces a reſolution of it into its diſtinct, ſeparate, primordial, and originally conſtituent, parts; whence, the ſubtile ones, which are homogeneous with the fabric of the animal, paſs into it, as ſupplies and recruits, to repair the waſte occaſioned by the friction reſulting from the exerciſe of its powers; and the coarſe, uſeleſs, component parts, which ſerved only to the configuration of the food, are thrown out, as excrements.

The continual, and uninterrupted, exertion of thoſe œconomical functions, or actions of the powers, inceſſantly waſting, and as inceſſantly

ceſſantly recruiting, in an organical body, is what is underſtood by the word *life*.

FROM this ſucceſſion of obſervations, we ſeem naturally led to admit of a conviction, *viz.* that the leaſt *erratum* in the quality, or quantity, of the new and freſh particles re-introduced into the human frame, for ſupplying the deficiency of the waſted ones, muſt unavoidably be productive of the greateſt irregularity, and diſcordance, in the movements, functions, and operations of the machine; which diſcordance, if not timely rectified, muſt abſolutely make it fly to pieces, and deſtroy it intirely.——Now, improper aliments always produce that *erratum*, the fruit of which is that very diſcordance in the operations of the engines of our fabric; or, in plainer terms, the diſeaſes, and diſorders, to the rack of which, WE, in preference to all the reſt of animals, ſeem more doomed to, and incumbered with, than any other whatever.

THE comparative view of the natural, ſteady and perſevering healthineſs of *brutes*, with the variable ſtate, and ailingneſs, of *man*, ſeems to bring in the curious and very inte-

reſting queſtion, "whether the preſent mode "of living of this laſt animal is natural to "him or not; and whether it is not much "more likely, that he has prodigiouſly de-"viated from the real food aſcribed to his "conſtitution, that is to ſay, that ſort of "food which was homogeneous to the pri-"mordial compoſing parts of his *paſte?*" But, it is too learned a ſubject, to be confined to the room we could allow it here for diſcuſſion; and too important, to be lightly touched upon. Therefore, as, to do it juſtice, it would take a great deal more time than, at preſent, we can conveniently beſtow upon it, I will content myſelf, for the moment, with only hinting that any artificial preparation of daily food, wrought by any other hand than thoſe of Nature is, neceſſarily muſt be, not only repugnant, but alſo *detrimental*, to the baſis of the conſtitution of any animal, and, by no means, can be homogeneous to it. To thoſe preparations, only and ſolely, may we, MUST we, therefore, aſcribe with juſtice, and to no nothing elſe, the true and direct cauſe of thoſe innumerable diſeaſes which we find to be the unfortunate lot of our ſpecies: becauſe thoſe preparations being themſelves compoſed of incompatible particles, and, beſides,

quite heterogeneous to our conſtitution, it reſults that their diſſolution in our ſtomach muſt introduce, in the whole context of our fabric, ſuch juices as, being total ſtrangers to its conſtruction, cannot help cauſing tenſions, contractions, relaxations, diſtractions, irritations, fermentations, in ſhort, combuſtions of all kinds, according to the different qualities inherent in them; qualities totally oppoſite, and contrary, to the diſpoſitions of the organs through which they are conveyed.

This being ſo, is it a wonder, now, that we ſhould be liable to ſo many diſeaſes as we are?—No.—As for my part, I think it is a much greater ſubject of wonder, indeed, we are not all born rickety, crooked, cripple, rotten, &c; nay, that there is ſtill left any of the human ſpecies at all on earth.—This ſally will perhaps make ſome people ſtart; but it will not cauſe any ſuch effect on thoſe who are acquainted with the great difference there is between the longevity and ſize of man at this preſent time, and that of this ſame animal in former ages.....

To return to our object: being once well convinced, both by reflection and experience,

that all our habitual diſeaſes are owing to nothing but a bad ſtate of our blood, occaſioned by the unwholeſomeneſs of our food, which introduces, among our juices, a quantity of ſtrange and foreign particles, which mix themſelves among them, and cauſe all thoſe ravages by which we find ourſelves ſo cruelly tormented; I thought that the only rational and poſſible means of curing them could undoubtedly not be by any outward application; and that it was much more concordant with ſenſe and reaſon to introduce after them, by the ſame door, ſome ingredients endowed with the power and virtue of coping with the firſt principles of the diſorder, to diſlodge them, and reſtore the blood and humours to their primary ſtate and purity, by furniſhing them with thoſe original particles which conſtituted their former equilibrium, before they were overwhelmed by thoſe of the diſorder.

All theſe reſources exiſt in minerals. Minerals alone contain thoſe powers which can increaſe or decreaſe the velocity of the circulation of the blood; thin, clarify and cleanſe it; expel the heterogeneous inimical particles floating in it, and reintroduce thoſe which may have been deſtroyed, loſt, or, overcome by them, and which

which are requiſite and neceſſary to give it its proper conſiſtence.

If you inſiſt upon thoſe minerals being poiſons, and aſk why I give not the preference to vegetables *? I will anſwer, that I have two very great reaſons for it: the firſt, that vegetables, ſuch as might produce the deſired effect, would be themſelves as great poiſons as the minerals; becauſe they muſt draw their virtues from particles of theſe ſtrewed all about the bowels of the earth which they ſuck up according to their nature, ſpecies and diſpoſitions. The ſecond reaſon is, that there is, between minerals and vegetables, the ſame difference as between the impetuous fiery horſe and the peaceable dull mule. The firſt of which, if you are a good horſe-man, or driver, will, by one ſingle leap, timely applied, extricate you from the moſt imminent danger, when on the brink of a well, or in the middle of a confuſed helter-ſkelter of carriages, at the breaking up of an opera, a ball,

* Vegetable food, ſuch as greens and ſallads, &c, diſagree very often with *ſcorbutic* and *gouty* patients, more than any other food: becauſe they fill them with wind and UNDIGESTABLE matter.

or

or a review, &c, while, whether driven or carried by the other, you could not but undoubtedly periſh, and be cruſhed to atoms, by the relentneſs of his motions.

THEREFORE, I maintain, from the compariſon, that you may tame, conquer, manage, direct and regulate, at pleaſure, the operations of minerals, and obtain thereby what effect you pleaſe from them, while, with reſpect to vegetables *, you find yourſelf reduced to the neceſſity of yielding to their ſlow progreſs, and tedious operation, to follow them in their dull motions, and, after a long patience, to be ſtill at the point where you were at beginning; becauſe the diſorder bred poiſons faſter, than the remedy could introduce antidotes againſt them, and got the head of it. This accident can never happen with minerals, whoſe powers, brought down at firſt even lower than the weakeſt vegetable, you may, by degrees, increaſe to what pitch you like, till you get the better of the

* I queſtion whether Doctor HILL's vegetable preparation of the *water dock* ever performed a ſingle cure. He never advertiſed any; yet, of his other noſtrums he did. The Doctor was an ingenious man, certainly, but the greateſt of all QUACKS.

principles

principles of the diſorder, overcome them, and expel them, at laſt, intirely from the body.

AND this happy *deſideratum*, I hope I am in poſſeſſion of by the *remedy* which is in my hands. A *remedy* which I neither am, nor even wiſh to be thought, the firſt inventor of. No; I candidly confeſs I purchaſed it from one who, no more than I, invented it; but who himſelf had it from one of the moſt ingenious and ſkilful adept in the art of chymiſtry. By the wonderful cures this *remedy* had performed, when in the hands of its firſt inventor, and in thoſe of his ſucceſſor, I ſoon was convinced of its real merit and efficacy. But, when I became the only proprietor of it, I was willing to put it to the greateſt trial, by opening a larger field of operations, whence, in a twelve-month, I could draw as much experience as, without it, I might not expect perhaps in twice twelve years.—For that purpoſe I opened in 1773, a DISPENSARY FOR THE POOR *afflicted with either the* GOUT, SCURVY, RHEUMATISM, &c. and gave repeatedly public notice I would adminiſter them that ſort of *remedy* GRATIS. My plan ſucceeded to the full of

my expectations; and, by the vaſt number of patients who flocked to me from all ſides, I was ſoon able to judge, from the immenſe variety of caſes, how far my REMEDY could be relied upon, where it cured, where it only ſoothened and afforded a mere relief, and where it miſſed totally. Thoſe obſervations, cloſely followed, carefully taken down, and attentively compared together, joined with a moſt aſſiduous, and unremitted, ſtudy of the degrees of powers and virtues veſted in the various drugs, and ingredients, which compoſe the *materia medica*, ſingly and combinedly examined, ſoon enabled me to diſcover where the ſuſceptibility lay of the REMEDY admitting any improvement. I followed with ſteadineſs and perſeverance that track which ſeemed there laying open to purſue; and, ſince, have had no reaſon to be diſpleaſed with the happy ſucceſs of my labours. Happily, they proved not vain, and amply repaid me for my pains, by the degree of perfection to which I was ſo lucky to bring my MEDICINE, which I have now the confidence and boldneſs to aſſert to be certainly ſurpaſſed by none at this preſent time extant, if ever equalled by any. And, in ſaying this, I hope I ſhall not be ſuppoſed to publiſh a mere puff, void of foundation;

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as I can refer the public, for a proof of my aſſertion, to the vaſt number of perſons who have poſitively been cured by means of my REMEDY, and to thoſe who are acquainting me daily, from every part of England, with the ſurpriſing, and unexpected, benefit they have received from it, in the moſt deſperate and inveterate caſes.

HOWEVER, I have already ſaid it many times, and I will never ceaſe to repeat it again, I pretend not to work miracles, nor to reſtore youth to an old decrepit man worn out by diſeaſes and decayed by age; but only, by means of my medicines, to work interiourly, and give new life and ſpirit to the relented circulation of the blood, clear and remove obſtructions, and ſtrengthen the body. Then this, in proportion as it recovers its wonted vigour, becomes more able to bear any accident which may happen; and, to that circumſtance alone, I aſcribe ſo many cures as I have had the happineſs to perform, ſome of which were of diſeaſes ſo inveterate as to threaten even a conſumption in the ſubject.

BUT, this power was not to be obtained from one or two ingredients alone. Some

operate one effect only, others another, and and others another again. The merit lay then in the art of uniting their ſeveral diſtinct powers; to modify, or aſſiſt, the one by the other; and to make all work in concert in the body.——And this I have done by uniting, after ſingle trials, the moſt proper in one ſole compoſition. This union produced what I had been in ſearch of for ſuch a long while, an excellent medicine, in which I have not declined admitting the Mercury of a VAN SWIETEN, or a BOERHAAVE, the Antimony * of a HUXHAM and a VALENTINE, the Hemlock of a STORK, nor the acids, bitters and alkaline vegetables joined with ſteel preparations, ſo far as to correct and blend the whole together, that one ſhould not be too powerful for another, but correct and mitigate each other. Thus, I am not aſhamed of confeſſing it, my MEDICINE is undoubtedly compoſed of poiſons †: but, they are

* To join the powers of Mercury and Antimony in pills, or powders, is very eaſy: but, to unite them in a liquid, without loſing any part of their efficacy, is a proceſs extremely difficult, and which has given me much trouble before I could obtain ſo deſirable an accompliſhment.

† I doubt not but to certain unthinking and unreflecting people, it will ſeem a very ſtrange aſſertion in me to ſay,

are ſo tamed, or corrected, as to make them ſubſervient to the greateſt end, *viz.* man's health; ſince, as HIPPOCRATES ſays, diſorders are to be cured by contraries.

As I have, therefore, ſo openly ſtood forth as an advocate for the moſt ſlandered *minerals*, it is not reaſonable to expect I ſhould be afraid to own I make uſe of them. Was I to do it, it would undoubtedly be in me the greateſt piece of ingratitude towards them; ſince I have ſo often experienced their mighty power, to my credit and the great benefit of my numerous patients.

COULD I have found the ſame advantage in vegetables alone, I ſhould have been very ready to do them the ſame juſtice. But, upon fair trial and experience, they have proved too weak indeed, and inſufficient. And, it will appear perhaps a very ſtrange

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ſay, that there is nothing in Nature but which, if uſed or carried beyond certain bounds, muſt and will degenerate, from a ſupporter, into a deſtroyer of health; and, thereby, be ſtrictly deemed a poiſon, ſince it puts an end to our life. Bread, wine, water, tea, coffee, or-geat, &c, any exerciſe, any pleaſure, or any pain, joy, or fear, &c, every thing, in ſhort, you can name is a poiſon.

paradox to the public, (though we have already obſerved it before) to declare that, medicines capable of doing the moſt good, generally are, and ſeldom can be any thing elſe, but rank poiſons.

I HAVE not, however, the preſumption to ſay that the diſeaſes, againſt which my MEDICINE is prepared, are eaſily removed, cured or eradicated; or, that I can give relief in all caſes, ages, &c, as if I meant to give people to underſtand that all mankind were fools before me.——As I pretend not to work by magick, I only declare my thoughts on each diſorder, and then give my mode of treating it; and, though I have had the ſatisfaction to operate ſuch great cures, even in the GOUT, I am notwithſtanding convinced this laſt diſorder will, whilſt this world exiſts, ever be a ſcourge to mankind, in ſpite of all the united efforts of EMPIRICKS and REGULARS.——With reaſon, aſſiſted by experience, we may, perhaps, become better able to aſcertain the cauſe of that dreadful diſorder, and give relief: but, to diſcover a medicine ſuch as to be capable of preventing either the SCURVY or the GOUT, is the height of abſurdity; ſince it is demonſtrated that

that we breed them both inwardly, by our intemperance and extravagant mode of nutrition, eſpecially when we additionally commit any irregularity in it. To expect, or attempt it, would be then trying for a contradiction in Nature. Ridiculous! As well would it be aiming at compoſing an antidote againſt the general decay of humanity, and even death.

WHEN a man complains of a malady, we may ſometime, I will even ſay, *very often* remove the preſent cauſe. But, if the patient is an old man, we leave him ſo ſtill, for we cannot bring the years of his life ten degrees back, or, in plain terms, we cannot recall youth.——What then, will you ſay, are we to hope from your MEDICINE?——Here it is.——My conſtant object has been to follow Nature and aſſiſt her in her ſtruggles, not to foreſtep her. Thus, inſtead of making uſe of thoſe misjudged methods which tend rather to weaken the human body, my ſole endeavours are to ſtrenthen it: and ſuch therefore, I anſwer, are the effects of, and *what you are to hope*, AND EXPECT *from, my medicine*. It is an antidote againſt the foul humours

humours of the blood; and, in its proceſs, it acts by the moſt gentle methods which can be imagined. It is elegant to the eyes, and, in general, not unpleaſant to the taſte. It requires no confinement, only moderation in diet: and, when aſſiſted by due and reaſonable exerciſe, it moſt ſurpriſingly reſtores the tone of the ſtomach, and, thereby, promotes digeſtion. It ſtrengthens the nerves, and opens the obſtructions in the moſt minute paſſages; which, therefore, may very well intitle it to the rank of one of the moſt powerful and efficacious deobſtruents which ever was invented.

I AM convinced that I ſhould have much more reſpect paid me, when a patient comes with a complaint, did I make the parade of ordering him to take a phyſick to purge him firſt; then, give him an ointment to rub the part outwardly, &c, &c, inſtead of telling him plainly, and without emphaſis, *take theſe* DROPS only.——As ſimple as my method ſeems to be, it is no leſs ſure of giving relief: and the moſt difficult taſk I meet with is only the preventing people from being in a hurry in taking the bottles, but to go by, and adhere

here ſtrictly to, the directions given in the *bill*, which always accompanies them.

BEFORE I was myſelf convinced of all this, and could bring this MEDICINE to its preſent improved ſtate, it is undoubtedly true I committed many errors, which nothing leſs than my DISPENSARY could inſtruct me in, and point me out, the method of rectifying, by the many opportunities I had of ſeeing ſuch a variety of caſes. But now, ſuch is the preſent ſtate of that MEDICINE, that I am really tempted to think it is come to the higheſt pitch of perfection it is ſuſceptible of; and that it is capable, indeed, of anſwering the greateſt expectations.

As for counterfeiting it, it will not bear it, without a viſible alteration in the effects, or being attended with very bad and dangerous conſequences: an accident which, with mine, that is to ſay, with that prepared by myſelf, I have both the boldneſs and ſatisfaction to affirm never happened, nor can poſſibly happen, provided the *bill of direction* be faithfully adhered to. And, on the contrary, the efficacy is even ſuch that a ſingle large bottle has often

often proved quite ſufficient to make a trial and be able to judge of the merits of it, in caſes of *Rheumatiſms* *, *Gout*, *Leproſy*, *Scurvy*, *Ulcers*, *Nervous Complaints*, &c. An obſervation which I am ſo much the more authorized to make, and to take advantage of, as I am convinced none ever took it, but after having tried before all the reſources which the art and ſkill of the faculty could invent, and therefore after Nature had been put to the rack to exert all her powers, and was quite exhauſted.

As I never neglect to acquaint the public with the *dates* of the ſeveral cures, and (whenever I can learn it) the number of bottles each took to be compleated, it is eaſy to be ſatisfied of the truth of my aſſertion, however aſtoniſhing as it may appear to the reader; a ſurprize which cannot be greater, at any rate, than that of the patients themſelves who have hitherto experienced them, and my own. Yet my natural candour does not permit me to deny that all are not ſo happy as to meet with the ſame deſired ſucceſs. It is true

* As I conſider the *rheumatiſm*, except that ariſing accidentally from catching a cold, to be in a great meaſure owing to the ſame cauſes as the *gout*, it is the reaſon why I ſay but little on that diſorder in particular.

that ſome *, have taken the DROPS a great many months before they were radically cured; though, from a ſtate of decay and impotency, they were, in a few weeks, able to get their bread.——And again, in the GOUT and RHEUMATISM a great deal can be ſaid in behalf of theſe DROPS, and, I believe, equal at leaſt to any pretender: yet, as in Mr. *Kelly's* caſe, ſome may have a relapſe; but no ſooner do they apply to the MEDICINE again, but they find inſtant relief.

IN the GOUT I could apply many an anodyne, liniment †, vegetable oil, &c. &c. But, I am

* See their caſes at the end of this work.

† There is no diſorder, perhaps, which requires a greater care, and a more judicious treatment, than the GOUT; and none to which ſo little attention is paid. The general notion, which people have ſo ſtrongly imbibed, that the GOUT is incurable, has, by the countenance it has received from the writings of many of the moſt celebrated and able phyſicians, raiſed ſuch a ſtrong pejudice in the minds of the generality, that they are totally deaf to all reaſoning, loſt to all hope, and ſo ſtrongly perſuaded that no relief can be expected from art, and the whole muſt be left to the work of nature alone, that PATIENCE AND FLANNEL is become quite proverbial among the ARTHRITICKS. In conſequence of which, it is amazing to ſee what pains the patients take to increaſe the inflammation, by wrapping up their

am ſo ſenſible that theſe outward applications, far from being able to deſtroy the cauſe, might much

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feet in wool, then drinking *Madeira* wines, and other hot, or ſpicy, draughts, under the falſe and erroneous notion of keeping the GOUT from their ſtomach. So that, when the feet and ancles are ſwelled to ſuch a pitch, that it cauſes, in ſome meaſure, another additional diſorder, and that, by the acuteneſs of the pains then felt by the patient, his life is become a burthen, and death loſing its hideous face would ſeem more acceptable; if, to ſooth the pain, you come and propoſe him an ointment, or a liniment, to be applied outwardly on the afflicted part and eaſe it, your offer is received, if not quite with contempt, at leaſt with terror, as if you meant to poiſon him. Notwithſtanding, and though (as it appears plainly enough by what I have ſaid, page 85 of this pamphlet) I am no friend myſelf to ointments, I cannot help declaring, that under ſuch predicaments, and in circumſtances of this kind, it is wiſe and prudent to uſe ſuch as will eaſe the pains, remove the obſtructions, and diſſolve thoſe thick depoſits of the diſorder, which turn into chalky concretions; ſhould even the effect be to repell that matter into the ſtream of the blood. And the reaſon I give is this. Whatever may be taken interiorly, for the cure of the GOUT, is ſlow in its progreſs; and, when it comes round to the part afflicted it has not the power to reſtore fluidity to thoſe concretions already petrified; and, by thoſe concretions, a patient may remain lame all his life afterwards. Therefore, if the ointment is aſſiſted by ſuch interior medicines, as are capable to cope with the principles of the diſorders, and expel them from the maſs of the blood, there is inconteſtably no ſort of bad conſequence to be feared from an outward application of that kind which compoſes the patient, gives him inſtantaneous eaſe, and procures him reſt; ſince, when the diſorder flies back, it is immediately encountered by another powerful enemy (the medicine) which prevents

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much more likely make me run a great risk of repelling the poisonous matter to a more noble part, that nothing, except the most excruciating pains, can ever induce me to comply with the requeſt, when it is defired from me.

A SARSAPARILLA drink, with an addition of fennel ſeeds, I often recommend, indeed, as an aſſiſtant; but very different I order it from the faculty in general, with whoſe practice of boiling this drug and the bark decoction ſo long, I totally diſagree: becauſe, it is obvious that the freeſt particles always evaporate firſt, by

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the further havocks and miſchiefs, which undoubtedly might enſue from the repulſion. In ſuch caſes, therefore, and in no other, I mean when a violent and intolerable inflammation attends the fits of a GOUT, and proper medicines are uſed inwardly to deſtroy the cauſe, I ſay that ointments and liniments may be uſed; I recommend them, and I do uſe them. And to ſhew, more demonſtratively, how conſiſtent I am with myſelf, and that no little nibbling critick ſhould have afterwards any opportunity to handle it into a contradiction, I further declare, in a more explicit manner ſtill, that, were thoſe *Gouty* inflammations of a nature ever to come to a breaking, or a ſuppuration, I would then oppoſe ointments with as much vigour as I do in the caſe of ſcorbutic eruptions; becauſe, under ſuch circumſtances, it would viſibly be ſhutting a door which nature herſelf had opened for the diſorder to come out at. Thus I believe I have now made myſelf quite underſtood.

ebullition. My Sarſaparilla drink will keep many weeks good, by adding a due proportion of ſpirit to it. Thus will it alſo be clearer, and more pleaſant to the taſte, than the general drink of that ſpecies. —— In ſummer time, a cooling acid drink *, when it agrees with the conſtitution, is likewiſe very proper, and may take the place of *Sarſaparilla*. And it will be found generally to agree, as moſt of the GOUTS are of an *alkaline* nature.

UPON the whole, I hope no one will refuſe me the juſtice to allow that my method of treating the afflicted is rational, and agree-

* It is proper here to inform patients, that there are two ſorts of *acids*, of diſtinct and different natures, which ſhould be well underſtood by them. One is wholeſome, and advantageous to the preſervation of life and health, as much as the other is deadly. This laſt we breed ourſelves in our ſtomach, and is the effect of a weak conſtitution. The firſt we are furniſhed with by Providence itſelf, who has taken care to ſpread it plentifully on the face of the earth, in all the fruits and vegetables, to counterbalance the alkaline quality of our animal food, and aſſiſt in its diſſolution by digeſtion. Who can help admiring the hand of the Creator in all his works, when one conſiders the ſagacious combination of contraries with which it is interſperſed, for the preſervation of the whole, as this caſe is a moſt ſtriking example: ſince the hotteſt climes, ſuch as the ſouth of France, Weſt Indies, and other places of that kind, more apt to produce alkaline conſtitutions, are all moſt largely ſtocked with acid vegetables, ſuch as *grapes*, *lemons*, *oranges*, *ananas*, &c, &c!

able to the process of Nature, which it always assists, and never contradicts, nor opposes: and that no hurt can accrue from my REMEDY, if taken according to the *directions* given in the *bill*.——Indeed, its safety is such that *children* and PREGNANT WOMEN * MAY TAKE IT WITHOUT *the least risk or danger*.

AFTER all, every man must rest upon his own judgment, and appeal to the rectitude of his principles and good intention, for all the effects which can result from what he composes. For, the most able and experienced physician has no just reason to pride himself for the most uninterrupted series of successes: since all his skill and art will always fall infinitely short of all the various accidents and new disorders to which mankind are liable, and will not even (as in the case of Dr. SYDENHAM) prevent him from falling himself, perhaps, a victim to the very disease †, in which he had given relief to thousands.

* Very different from a certain advertisement published in the *Morning-Post*, to the shame of the Nation and of the Legislature, by both of whom it is unnoticed, but unfortunately NOT so by those for the murder and destruction of whom it is calculated.

† The Gout.

FINIS.

## POSTSCRIPT.

I HAVE lately * found myſelf under the neceſſity of raiſing the price of my DROPS, from *three* to *four*, and from *five* to *ſeven* ſhillings a bottle: but, I hope no reaſonable perſon will think of diſproving me in that ſtep, when they conſider at what vaſt expence I muſt have been in making the different trials neceſſary to bring them to the preſent ſtate of improvement to which I have brought them, and eſpecially ſince the year 1773, when I firſt opened the DISPENSARY *for the poor*, which, ever ſince I did, and now do ſtill, continue to keep open for their relief: and when I affirm, upon the word of honour, that I ſend every day theſe ſame DROPS, GRATIS, by *gallons*, *kegs*, *quarts*, *pints* and *ſmall bottles*, to every part of *Great-Britain* and *Ireland*, there to be diſtributed, by my agents and correſpondents, to *ſuch* of their neighbourhood as are afflicted, and unable to procure themſelves relief in paying.

* This very year, on January the 1ſt, 1776.

AP-

# APPENDIX.

## A PLAN OF THE DISPENSARY FOR THE POOR, ESTABLISHED IN 1773, AND EVER SINCE SUPPORTED WITHOUT THE ASSISTANCE OF ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SUBSCRIPTION.

AS I have often had occaſion to make mention of my DISPENSARY, of the time when I firſt opened it, and of my uninterrupted continuance of it, ever ſince its eſtabliſhment, to this very day; I think I ſhall not be blamed, if, to prevent being ſuſpected of having propagated a mere puff, I ſubmit to the public a ſhort SKETCH, or PLAN, of the form I have given it, that they may more eaſily gather ſome opinion of its preſent utility and advantages, as well as of thoſe it might, by improvement, be ſuſceptible of, in time.

Two years after I had opened it, in March 1775, I renewed my invitation to the poor, and brought that ſame DISPENSARY under the ſtrict regulations and *formulæ* under which it now ſtands, and in the manner following.

## SPILSBURY DISPENSARY.

AN

## INVITATION TO THE POOR

AFFLICTED WITH EITHER THE

## SCURVY, GOUT, RHEUMATISM, LEPROSY, EVIL, &c.

*March 12th*, 1775.

THE *Poor* making, by their number, the greateſt, as, by their labour and induſtry, the moſt conſiderable and uſeful, part of the community, it behoves the man of ſenſe and feeling to pay the greateſt regard to their welfare; and the phyſician is bound, by the laws both of humanity and patriotiſm, to give them not the ſmalleſt ſhare of his attention. On thoſe principles, I have never neglected mentioning in the ADVERTISEMENTS of my Medicines

Medicines that *I treated the Poor* GRATIS; and I dare confidently to truſt in, and rely upon, the candour and integrity of the publik, that no one, either in town or in the country, can riſe to ſay that, on perſonal, or epiſtolary application, I ever did refuſe, or neglect, to give, or ſend, my medicines, when they made their indigent circumſtances known to me.

BUT, here, I muſt beg to explain myſelf in a more clear and explicit manner. By the POOR, are generally underſtood two claſſes of people, viz. ſuch as are intirely deſtitute, and another ſort which would not like to be ranked among them, though, on account of the ſmallneſs of their yearly ſtipends, they cannot afford to pay an equal price with people of fortune.——To the former *, I abſolutely give my attendance, advice, and medicines GRATIS; to the latter †, at HALF PRICE.

THEREFORE, as the happy ſucceſs my medicines have, for theſe many years paſt, met with, among the moſt opulent part of this nation; and the great encouragement I muſt acknowledge I continue daily to receive from that ſide, never did, nor ever will, ſwell me with ſuch an impertinent pride, as to make me think myſelf above my buſineſs: and, as I am fully impreſſed, on the contrary, with a due ſenſe of gratitude for my paſt and preſent ſucceſs, and the many favours hitherto conferred on me, I cannot better teſtify how deeply affected I am by them, than by conſidering the true merits of my avocation, and the real advantage I am hereby enabled to derive from it, by the ſweet opportunity it gives me of relieving an immenſe number of my poor and diſtreſſed fellow-creatures. Many, indeed, who labour under ſome one or other of the above-mentioned diſorders, not having the means of procuring themſelves the very neceſſaries of life, can ſtill leſs be ſuppoſed to think of a coſtly remedy againſt their excruciating pains. Therefore, fully ſenſible how very ſerviceable and uſeful this far pre-numerous part of the community (the poor and induſtrious) are to ſociety, I do hereby publicly DECLARE and GIVE NOTICE, that, through a principle of humanity and tenderneſs for them, I bind myſelf for ever to keep the following contract, and articles of agreement with them, viz.

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* It is to be obſerved that the Poor did at firſt receive the DROPS *gratis* all the year round, as ſome do even now: but the great number increaſing daily ſo faſt that I ſoon diſcovered a great abuſe by people who had no real complaints, and who ſold them at a low price to others, after having themſelves received them for nothing, I was obliged to throw ſome check in their way, and I took the reſolution to make them pay *one ſhilling* admittance, for which they receceive a *ticket* for ſix weeks, at the end of which term, they may renew it, if requiſite, for one month, on paying *another ſhilling*.

† To theſe ſort of people I often grant the the DROPS at a *third* and a *fourth* of their price.

I. THAT

I. THAT on Tuesdays and Fridays, from nine in the morning to three in the afternoon, I will give ADVICE and ATTENDANCE GRATIS, at my own house, to POOR PERSONS of either sex, and of any age.

II. THAT all the poor recommended by house-keepers, by people of rank and fortune, under whose protection they may happen to be, or duly provided with a certificate signed by the church wardens and overseers of their respective parishes, and attending at my house, on either of the two above-mentioned days, shall receive both my advice and my medicines GRATIS *.

III. THAT they who, though not opulent, could not submit to be ranked positively among the poor and indigent class, and find themselves, however, on account of their small income, the precariousness of their business, or the large number of their family, unable to pay the price these medicines have been fixed at, shall meet with tender treatment, and have a proper regard paid to their circumstances, by admitting them on paying only one half of the price †.

IV. THAT for the sake of those who, living in the country at some distance from London, cannot without interfering with the emoluments of their week's work, attend on any of the above-mentioned days, the same indulgence shall be given to them on Sunday morning till twelve o'clock.—— And if it become burthensome *or* expensive to them to take often such an excursion, I shall take care to provide them at once with such a sufficient quantity of bottles, as will make the frequency of their attendance less necessary.

V. THAT all letters (post paid) sent for advice, shall have a punctual answer returned to them; and, with proper vouchers of inability to pay the full price, or any price at all, those who live in the most remote parts of this kingdom, shall enjoy the very same advantages, as those who are on the spot, and have the ANTISCORBUTIC DROPS sent to them GRATIS, on paying the mere carriage of the same ‡.

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* Under the restrictions just mentioned in the precedent note.

† And even a *third* or a *fourth* as before mentioned in the precedent note.

‡ But now every one of my agents is authorized to grant these advantages to such of their neighbours as stand under the same predicaments as here described, and are provided with medicines in cases for that purpose.

## SPECIMENS

### OF THE VARIOUS FORMULÆ, TO BE OBSERVED BEFORE AND AFTER GAINING ADMITTANCE TO THE SAID DISPENSARY.

IN ORDER to be admitted to the aforeſaid DISPENSARY, the petitioner, upon application, is provided by me with the following printed copy of a *Patient's caſe* filled up in his preſence, which he is to ſign before a witneſs or two, and on the back of which is a letter of mine to the *church-wardens* and *overſeers* of his pariſh, and underneath their *certificate* ready printed with *blancks* to be filled up, ſigned and atteſted by them, in the following manner.

### THE PATIENT'S CASE.

THE under written by Trade in the Pariſh of in the County of declares, that has for for theſe paſt laboured under a attended with for which has been treated without effect. Wherefore, having being adviſed to try the uſe of SPILSBURY'S ANTISCORBUTIC DROPS, and being unable to afford paying the Price at which they are fixed, humbly craves the Indulgence of being admitted at the ſaid F. SPILSBURY'S DISPENSARY as a PAUPER; and, upon producing a CERTIFICATE duly authenticated by the Overſeers of the Pariſh aforeſaid, as a Voucher of actual and truly indigent Circumſtances, thereby to enjoy the Benefit accruing from the charitable Diſtribution of the ſaid DROPS, ſo generouſly offered by the Author in his INVITATION TO THE ROOR of the 12th March 1775, in Conſequence of which is encouraged to make the preſent Application, and petitions for obtaining the ſaid DROPS GRATIS. Dated this Day of in the Year 177

*Signed in the Preſence of the following Witneſſes.*

To the Church-Wardens and Overſeers of the Pariſh of
in the County of

GENTLEMEN, 177

FRANCIS SPILSBURY of the DISPENSARY for the Poor afflicted with either the *Gout, Scurvy, Leproſy, Evil, Rheumatiſm, &c. &c.* eſtabliſhed at *Nos.* 5, *Mount-Row, on the Surry Side of Weſtminſter-Bridge*, having been applied to by the above-mentioned
in a Caſe of in Order to be admitted as a *Pauper*, and, in that Quality to receive his *Drops*, Advice and Attendance *Gratis*, requeſts the Favour of your authenticating in the following *Certificate*, the Veracity of the ſaid Petitioner's alledged indigent Circumſtances, and whether you think to be a true Object of Charity. In doing which you will oblige

GENTLEMEN,
Your moſt obedient Servant,

CERTIFICATE

OF

ADMISSION AT SPILSBURY's DISPENSARY, FOR A PAUPER.

WE whoſe Names are under-written, Overſeers and Church-Wardens of the Pariſh of in the County of certify that by Trade is really a *Pauper*, afflicted with and in that Quality an Object truly worthy being admitted at Mr. SPILSBURY's DISPENSARY for the Poor, there to partake of his charitable Diſtribution. To atteſt the Veracity of which, WE have ſigned and delivered to the preſent Certificate, this Day of In the Year 177

NEXT to this, when the Petitioner returns with his certificate in due form, he is entered into a Regiſter ready printed with blanks, and in the following double form,

Anno 177 No.

ENTRY.

THIS day a Pauper, by Trade of the Parish of in the County of has been admitted for Weeks, on the recommendation of to be treated for at SPILSBURY's *DISPENSARY*; and there, at the same time, to receive the ANTISCORBUTIC-DROPS *GRATIS*.

N. B. *This* Ticket *has been renewed on the day of for Weeks.*

Anno 177

PER CONTRA.

THIS day *the said has been discharged from the* Dispensary *by reason of his*

RECAPITULATION.

*Discharge.* { Disorder / Entered / Discharged / Cure performed { in weeks, / with bottles.

THEN they receive the following ticket, engraved on a card, as a proof of their admittance and title to the medicine, being delivered to them *gratis*.

Anno 177 No.

THE *Bearer a Pauper, of the Parish of is admitted for Weeks, on the recommendation of to be treated for at* SPILSBURY's DISPENSARY, *and there at the same time shall receive the* ANTISCORBUTIC-DROPS *GRATIS*.

*By order of the Proprietor*

Ticket of admittance.

BUT when a mere indulgence is granted to certain people on account, and in proportion, of their unfavourable circumstances, their names is only entered into a Register, somewhat similar to the other, but printed in red, and conformable to the following specimen.

Anno 177 No.

THIS day by trade
was admitted to the indulgence of Shilling per *every Bottle* of out
ANTISCORBUTIC-DROPS, on account of h unfavourable circumſtances.

*Recapitulation.*

*This Grant good for* *Bottles.*
*Renewed for* *ditto*
*Diſorder*
*Patient entered*
*Diſcharged by reaſon of* *on* *day of*
Cure performed { in Weeks. / with Bottles.

AND after being thus admitted and regiſtered, they receive the following *Ticket* engraved alſo in red, on a card bearing the ſame number and date.

Anno 177 | SPILSBURY's DISPENSARY. | No.

*AN indulgence of* *Shillings is hereby granted per every Bottle*
*of the* ANTISCORBUTIC-DROPS *to*
*in conſideration of* *unfavorable circumſtances.——Dated this*
*day of* 177

*By order of the Proprietor.*

This *Ticket* good for *Bottles*

HAVING thus finiſhed the account of the plan on which my PUBLIC DISPENSARY is conducted, I beg leave to introduce a few of the moſt recent cures I have had the happineſs to perform by means of my medicine, and which are all ſo well authenticated that I hope they will leave no ground for the leaſt ſuſpicion of fraudulence and ſubrepticiouſneſs behind them in the mind of the reader. I ſhall therefore, give them as they ſtand in one of my hand bills, with the copy of that very hand bill itſelf, which is as follows.

SPILS-

## SPILSBURY's IMPROVED ANTISCORBUTIC-DROPS,

Prepared only by FRANCIS SPILSBURY, Chymiſt, No. 5, Mount-Row, on the Surry-Side of Weſtminſter-Bridge; who at his own Expence opened a Diſpenſary for the Poor, in the Year 1773, where Numbers have been relieved gratis by his Medicine, after being diſcharged from the Hoſpitals as incurable.

THESE DROPS raiſed on January 1ſt, 1776, to four and ſeven ſhillings a bottle, are proved, by experience, to be one of the firſt medicines now extant in theſe kingdoms, for the radical cure of the *Scurvy, Gout, Rheumatiſm, Evil, Children's Eruptions, Ulcers, Leproſy, Nervous Complaints, Humours after the Small Pox and Meaſles*, &c. Their efficacy exceeds every thing of the kind which ever did precede them; and whatever has hitherto been diſcovered which proved of any utility and benefit in thoſe complaints, has been happily united and combined, in them, to compoſe one compleat remedy. This muſt account for that great ſuperiority of cures in point of number and perfection, performed in a much ſhorter time than *any other perſon* ever could, or *can even now*, produce in ſimilar caſes; ſince *one ſingle* bottle of theſe Drops has *often* proved *ſufficient* for a cure in a recent caſe, and *always ſo*, for a trial, in an inveterate one. An inconteſtable proof, undoubtedly, of the merit of this medicine in the above-mentioned diſorders. Were not theſe Drops really held in the ſame eſteem by the public, that truly impartial judge, and generous rewarder of the pains and labours of thoſe whoſe aim is to pleaſe it, and to deſerve its favours, the proprietor would not have been able to raiſe them twice ſucceſſively in two years, in order to aſſiſt himſelf in the ſupport of a very expenſive DISPENSARY for the *Servants, Mechanics*, and *Poor*, ſet up at the Proprietor's own and ſole expence, in the year 1773, and ever ſince kept up on the ſame generous and diſintereſted principles with ſuch care and aſſiduity that by the *printed Regiſter Book* of the ſaid *Diſpenſary* it appears that, during the courſe of the *two laſt* years only, no leſs than 493 perſons were relieved, many of whom had been deemed *incurable* at the Hoſpitals, and *as ſuch* diſcharged.

N. B. THE proceſs of operation of theſe DROPS, in procuring a cure, and the chief tendency, indeed, they have is, inſtead of *enervating* a patient, as other medicicines in the following caſes always do, to *ſtrengthen* on the contrary the conſtitution, and, by ſtimulating the principles of the diſorder, to give them an action which might aſſiſt that mended conſtitution in throwing them off from the body.

THE

THE following ſeven cures are new, and were *all* publiſhed *this year*, before a *certain Perſon* had publiſhed *one*:

MR. RANDAL DORMOND, of the 10th ward, Chelſea, afflicted fourteen years with the gout and rheumatiſm, often ſo bad as to deprive him of the uſe of his limbs, after having tryed many medicines in vain, was cured by twelve large bottles. *Auguſt* 10, 1775.

A TRADESMAN in the city of Peterborough, who had ſeveral holes in his legs, after having been at the ſalt water and found no benefit, was cured by taking ſix bottles only of Mr. Spilſbury's drops. Witneſs Mr. Horden, bookſeller, of Peterborough, Northampton. *Auguſt* 26, 1775.

MRS. MARY CLAY, afflicted with a leproſy on the arms and body; ſome of the ſpots as broad as a half-crown, which ſcaled off and then came again, cured by twenty ſmall bottles. For particulars enquire at the Seven Stars, Bromley, near Bow, Middleſex. *Dec.* 22, 1775.

CAPTAIN MILLAR, at No. 12, Dean-ſtreet, Shadwell, London, of the Mary, lately returned from Virginia, reading Mrs. Taylor's cure of nine holes in her leg by five bottles, tried theſe drops, and is now cured, to the ſurpriſe of himſelf and friends, by ſix large bottles only, of one large ulcer, and two ſmall ones in his leg, of five years ſtanding, which had baffled all the efforts of the faculty. *Jan.* 7, 1776.

*February* 11, 1776.

A GENTLEMAN in the neighbourhood of Cheſter, far advanced in life, laboured under an inveterate ſcurvy more than twenty-eight years; by obſtructions, and at different times it cauſed a rheumatic gout, great laſſitude, wandering pains, ſcurvy blotches, eruptions, yellow jaundice, and other illneſs; he tried many internal and external antiſcorbutics, without effect; he is now free, in appearrnce, of the ſcurvy and other complaints, by taking, according to direction, SPILSBURY's ANTISCORBUTIC-DROPS. Any perſon may be ſatisfied of the truth of the fact, and the gentleman's name, by applying to Mr. Pool, bookſeller, in Cheſter, or to Mr. Spilſbury.

To Mr. SPILSBURY, Chymiſt,

SIR, *Feb.* 4, 1776.

I SUFFERED ſeveral years under the moſt violent ſcurvy, which broke out particularly in great fiſſures, with ſcurf on my hands, like the bark of a tree, which not only rendered them a ſad ſpectacle, but deprived me, in a great meaſure, of their uſe; and after having applied to ſeveral eminent Phyſicians in vain, (what is no leſs extraordinary than true) I was cured by taking only five ſmall bottles of your drops. I am, Sir, with reſpect, &c.

MARY WEATHERILL.

At Mrs. Underwood's, No. 8, Broad-ſtreet, Carnaby-market, London.

*Another*

*Another remarkable Cure in Edinburgh.*

I HENRIETTA PATERSON, Step-daughter to William Gray, Taylor, in Edinburgh, aged ſixteen years, have been troubled with a moſt inveterate ſcorbutic humour in my feet, for upwards of ten years paſt, to ſuch a degree, that one of them broke out in large holes, and continued running, and caſting large ſcales, like bark, notwithſtanding the many applications of different medicines, by the moſt eminent phyſicians of this place, all without the leaſt effect; till about nine months ago, I was recommended to Mr. Elliot, to make trial of Mr. Spilſbury's directions. I had not uſed two bottles, till I began to find the good effect of that medicine, which has continued daily to ſuch a degree, that I am now quite recovered.

HENRIETTA PATERSON.

Any perſon doubting the truth of the above, may be fully ſatisfied, by applying to the ſaid H. Paterſon, at my houſe in Law's-plain, Stone-cloſe, Canongate, Edinburgh.

*Edinburgh, March* 9, 1776. WM. GRAY.

The above is likewiſe atteſted as a fact, by

John Carſtairs, George Wright, } Surgeons, Edinburgh.

Thomas Matthew, Robert Walker, } Elders, College Kirk, Edinburgh.

*An extraordinary Cure of the* GOUT.

To Mr. SPILSBURY.

SIR,

I SHALL always think myſelf obliged to acknowledge the very great benefit I have received by taking your Drops, which has had a happy effect, by relieving me from diſorders that had reduced me to the loweſt ebb. Although I made uſe of and took a multitude of preſcriptions of ſome of the moſt eminent phyſicians in London, likewiſe ſeveral bottles of another advertiſed medicine, made three journeys to Margate without receiving any relief whatever, and was almoſt in deſpair of ever being cured: when happily I was adviſed to make a trial of your Drops, which have given me new life, though near fifty years of age, and have been upwards of five years moſt violently afflicted with the RHEUMATIC GOUT, and SCURVY, which had enfeebled me to ſuch a degree, that I was not able to dreſs or undreſs myſelf for upwards of eight months; but am now thank God, happily reſtored to my health, and ſtrength; and being very deſirous that the public ſhould know where to apply for relief in ſuch caſes as mine, (with reſpect to which the faculty are as yet in the dark) I will do myſelf the pleaſure to wait on any gentleman or lady, to give any further information required, and am, with the greateſt reſpect, Sir, Your moſt humble ſervant,

Harrow, Saliſbury-court, Fleet-ſtreet, London, *May* 3, 1775. J. KELLY.

I JOHN

I JOHN KNIGHT, Shoemaker, near the turnpike, in Stroud, Kent, was afflicted five years with a ſcorbutic humour in the hollow of my arms, almoſt round, and my ſhoulders were covered with it, which was attended with exceſſive itching, and a running humour as clear as water, which ſcalded and corroded other parts, and ſtiffened my ſhirt like buckram, and the ſkin ſcaled off with white ſcurf and then came again, attended with a fever: I was ſcarce able to do any work; my face was full of large pimples: In ſhort my complaint was too bad to be deſcribed. By taking four ſmall bottles of Mr. Spilſbury's Drops I found ſurprizing relief, and by continuing them, I am cured of thoſe complaints.——Any perſon may be ſatisfied of the truth by applying to me as above, or to Mr. Fiſher, Bookſeller, at Rocheſter, who ſaw me in my miſerable condition, when I applied to him for the drops. *July* 23, 1775.

JOHN KNIGHT.

JANE READ, ſervant to Mr. Cranſton, maſter of one of the city of Edinburgh's ſchools, was grievouſly afflicted with a moſt inveterate ſcurvy, ſo that her whole body was almoſt covered over with a very thick ſcurf, which came off at times in large pieces, and immediately grew as thick as formerly; and having been informed of the happy effects of Spilſbury's Antiſcorbutic medicine, and that he was ſo charitable as to order Mr. Elliot to give it gratis to two patients that were not able to pay for it, application was made for her, and by the uſe of it alone, ſhe is now perfectly cured of that diſorder. And from gratitude to Mr. Spilſbury, as alſo for the information of others who may labour under the like diſorder, ſhe deſires this may be made public.

N. B. IF any perſon ſhall doubt of the truth of the above, by applying to her at Mr. Cranſton's, teacher of Engliſh in Niddrie's Wynd, they may be fully ſatisfied. The above is alſo atteſted for truth by

Edinburgh, *Dec.* 10, 1774. JAMES CRANSTON.

N. B. As a further proof of the efficacy of theſe Drops in this country, any perſon calling at Mr. Elliot's, may have the peruſal of letters from ſeveral perſons, who would not chuſe to appear in print.

SIR,

A FEW years ago I got a bad ſurfeit, by drinking cold water, (when hot) which ſoon broke out in an inflammatory raſh on my arms and other parts of my body, which itched intolerably. Having tried various medicines, with the aſſiſtance of one of the hoſpitals, all to no purpoſe, I heard of the extraordinary cures your drops had performed. I tried ſome of them. Happy for me, eight bottles cured me, without trouble or pain. I am, Sir, with gratitude, your humble ſervant.

*Nov.* 4, 1773. ST. JACKSON.

*Another remarkable Cure of the Gout, by ſix Bottles only.*

To Mr. SPILSBURY, Chymiſt.

SIR, *May* 26, 1776.

FOR more than ſix months I was not able to make any uſe of my hands, even to feed myſelf, or move my hat, through that moſt excruciating complaint called the GOUT, which had reduced me to the moſt languiſhing condition, and almoſt to death; and, being above ſeventy years old, I deſpaired of a remedy, when fortunately I was recommended to you by a Lady of character, who adviſed me to make uſe of your Drops.——I had no ſooner taken the firſt bottle, but I got new life, and by ſix large only, I found myſelf perfectly cured (though it was in the hard froſt) to my great ſatisfaction, and the ſurprize of all thoſe who knew me.

MY Wife, who had long been ſubject to violent Rheumatic pains in both her arms, was alſo cured by two bottles of your medicine: with pleaſure and with gratitude we ſubſcribe our names, and will ſatisfy any one concerning the particulars thereof at the Wheat-ſheaf, in Glanville-ſtreet, Rathbone-Place, St. Pancraſs, London.

THOMAS and MARGARET CORKRAN.

*To* Mr. SPILSBURY, *Chymiſt*, No. 5, *Mount-Row, Weſtminſter-Bridge, Proprietor of the Antiſcorbutic Drops.*

THIS is to certify, that I Thomas Roach, ſon of Patrick Roach, of the pariſh of Clonallan, in the county of Down, was afflicted for ſeveral years paſt, with an obſtinate ſcorbutic diſorder all over my body and arms, for which I had taken many medicines without finding any benefit, and from the virulence of the diſorder had almoſt deſpaired of recovery; but being recommended to try your antiſcorbutic Drops, I found ſix bottles of that valuable medicine produced a convincing proof of its ſurpriſing efficacy, by completing a cure to the aſtoniſhment of every perſon that had ſeen the ſtate of the diſorder; it is now ſeveral months ſince I quitted taking the drops, and I have not found the leaſt ſymptoms of its returning. Given under my hand, October 29, 1773.

THO. ROACH.

Witneſſes, John Caulfield, merchant, and Robert Stevenſon, bookſeller, in Newry, Ireland.

*Other recent* CURES, *by taking the* ANTISCORBUTIC DROPS.

SIR, *July* 23, 1775.

BY taking five bottles of your drops I am cured of nine holes in my right leg, after having advice and been at large expences with the faculty, without ſucceſs, until reading in the papers of the great cures your drops have performed, which induced me to try them. You have my leave to publiſh this. Witneſs my hand, JANE TAYLOR.

Jarvis Houſe, Sun Tavern Fields, St. George's in the Eaſt.

*September*

*September 5th*, 1773.

MRS. ELIZABETH FORSTER cured of a bad ſcurvy, and other diſagreeable complaints, by taking only ſix bottles of Mr. Spilſbury's Drops.

Witneſs Mrs. Hall, No. 103, Beaufort-Buildings, London.

LIKEWISE a Gentleman's maid ſervant in Newcaſtle upon Tyne, afflicted with the ſcurvy that her hands became ſo much contracted as to diſable her from working; and on applying to a gentleman of the faculty, he told her ſhe had no remedy but keeping her hands from water; but hearing of the efficacy of Mr. Spilſbury's Drops, ſhe took only two of his bottles, which reſtored her hands to their former ſtate, and ſhe is now perfectly able to perform her work.——The truth of this may be known by applying to Mr. Saint, Printer of the Newcaſtle paper.

*Newcaſtle, April* 20, 1775.

*To* Mr. SPILSBURY.

SIR, *Jan.* 10, 1774.

THE kindneſs I have received at your hands (in curing me of an inveterate ſcorbutic diſorder by your Antiſcorbutic Drops, when I was in the midſt of deſpair, having tried many medicines in vain) demands the tribute of a grateful acknowledgment, and for an encouragement to others, I will relate my caſe. I was afflicted near ſeven years, chiefly on my left arm, from my elbow to the wriſt, which formed a cruſt and a continual ſcalding humour ran down to my finger ends, the ſame on my neck, a large place, which ran to my waiſt, and itched ſo intolerably that I ſcratched in my ſleep to ſuch a degree, that I was frequently raw; my ſtomach was weak, and in ſo poor a ſtate that almoſt every day there came off half a pint of clear water, and continually drowſy; every one that knew me ſaid I was in a deep conſumption. After I had taken four large bottles my ſtomach was ſtrengthened, and I mended daily, and by taking twenty I am perfectly reſtored to my health, and free from all complaints, as hundreds in the neighbourhood can teſtify.

I am, Sir, your humble Servant,

WM. TURLEY, Shoemaker, Turnmill-ſtreet.

Witneſſes, Mr. Evans, at the Turk's-Head, Turnmill-ſtreet, and Edward Harriſon, Well-ſtreet, Oxford-road.

*To* Mr. SPISBURY, *Chymiſt.*

*March 5th*, 1774.

About eight years ago a bad irritating humour broke out on my body, arms, and legs, in ſmall pimples, which itched intolerably and kept growing worſe; ſo that the humour got ſo ſtrong as to affect my eye-ſight, attended with a bad head-ach and a pimpled face, accompanied with a loſt appetite and a fever: after having tried various medicines to little purpoſe, I was adviſed to try your Univerſal Antiſcorbutic Drops; after I had taken two bottles I found relief in my eyes and head, but the medicine then forced the humour

out in a number of large boils on my body, ſome of which were as broad as a crown piece, and diſcharged a foul corroſive matter for ſeven weeks, and then healed up gradually. I continued taking the drops, which created an appetite, and agreed with me very well, and purified my blood, that I am now entirely free from all complaints, having taken not more than eleven bottles. Any perſon calling at No. 5, Charing-croſs, oppoſite Northumberland-houſe, ſhall be ſatisfied of the truth of the above.

I am, Sir, your obliged humble ſervant,

JOHN VALENTINE.

ALSO Thomas Granby, four years old, ſon of Mr. Granby, at No. 2, in Britannia-row, Lambeth, near Weſtminſter-bridge, was terribly afflicted with a bad ulcerated head, and other ſwellings and pimples on his body, cured by two bottles only: at the taking the firſt bottle the ſores diſcharged a foul corroſive matter, which ſmelt intolerably, and then healed up gradually, as uſual in thoſe complaints.

*April* 2, 1774.

A GENTLEMAN cured of ſcurfy eruptions, by ſix bottles, only. Witneſs Mrs. Sturch, bookſeller, Newport, Iſle of Wight. May 12, 1774.

THIS is to certify, that my daughter of fourteen months old, was cured (by one 5s. bottle of Spilſbury's Antiſcorbutic Drops) of a very bad ſwelling on the ear, of ſeveral weeks ſtanding, which run a foul matter, and the humour crept along the cheek with a white ſcurf, which peeled off, and then came again.

*May* 14, 1774. Witneſs my hand, JOHN CRAWFORD.

At the Caſtle, near the Turnpike, Weſtminſter-bridge, Surry.

MRS. Jane Stevenſon, of Stamford Lincoln, was troubled with the ſcurvy, attended with lowneſs of ſpirits, rheumatic pains, and loſs of appetite, for near two years, was cured by five bottles. Witneſſes H. Stevenſon and Wm. Royce, bookſeller, of Stamford.

*June* 15, 1774.

LIKEWISE a gentleman of independent fortune of Peterborough, cured of an inveterate ſcurvy, which had rendered his life miſerable, by a few bottles of Mr. Spilſbury's Drops. For particulars, enquire at Mr. Horden's, bookſeller, in Peterborough.

*January* 20*th*, 1775.

MR. Sagoe, keeper of the toll at the obeliſk, Blackfriars bridge, was very much afflicted with the gout in his feet, but was ſo much relieved by one 5s. bottle, and a decoction of ſarſaparilla at night, that in a few days he was able to wear a common ſhoe, to the ſurprize of all his acquaintance.

*March* 5, 1774.

THIS

THIS is to certify, that I Abraham Geers, of Gray's Inn Lane, Holborn, London, have been afflicted for ſeveral years with an obſtinate ſcorbutic diſorder, attended with great itching on my body and arms, for which I had taken many medicines in vain; and from the malignancy and the continuance of the complaint, had deſpaired of relief; for the humour had cauſed a pain in the head, with deafneſs, for nine months, which rendered me incapable of my buſineſs; but by the bleſſing of God, and taking ten ſmall bottles of Mr. Spilſbury's Antiſcorbutic Drops, am perfectly cured of my deafneſs and the above diſorders.

*October* 8, 1774. Witneſſes to the ſaid cure,
Gilbert Stevens, Taſh-ſtreet, Gray's-inn lane.
John Cotter, in Fox-court, Gray's-inn lane.

I WILLIAM COLSON, wright, in Portſburgh, (or Weſt Port) having a daughter of twelve years of age, who, upwards of three years ago, by a fall, got her leg ſcratched a little above her ancle, which, in a ſhort time, cauſed an inflammation, which ſpread for ſeveral inches, and at laſt formed into an ulcer or boil, which gathered and broke alternately for ſeveral months; and after trying in vain moſt of the doctors in Edinburgh, I at laſt procured from Mr. Elliot, bookſeller, in Edinburgh, ſome of Mr. Spilſbury's Univerſal Antiſcorbutic Drops, and began to uſe them in the month of January laſt, and have continued uſing them, according to his directions, till the preſent time; by the uſe of which, and the bleſſing of God, ſhe is now perfectly recovered. Out of gratitude to Mr. Spilſbury, and compaſſion for thoſe in like diſtreſs, I think it my duty to make public this cure, that others may not loſe the opportunity of being cured alſo.

*Edinburgh, March* 10, 1775. WILLIAM COLSTON.

"That the above ſigned William Colſton hath reſided many years in the "Weſt-Kirk pariſh, and is of an unexceptionable character, is atteſted by "us, JOHN GIBSON, Miniſter. JOSEPH GAVIN, Elder."

*July* 27, 1776.

## A DREADFUL SCORBUTIC CASE.

HOWEVER true certain facts may be in themſelves, when attended with ſuch ſtrong marks of improbability as the following, a man of honour and delicacy, who has his veracity and reputation at heart, finds himſelf much embarraſſed ſometimes how to exculpate himſelf from the ſuſpicion of *quackery*, by convincing the public of the rectitude of his principles, and ſcruples often to publiſh them. But, the ſubject of the preſent caſe is ſo well known to all his neighbourhood, and to the moſt eminent and diſtinguiſhed perſonages of the faculty, that, I believe, I may reſt with confidence

dence upon the numerous atteſtations of the one, and the candour and probity of the others, for the verification of the following well authenticated CURE.

## THE CASE.

ON the 5th, of January, 1774, one JOHN PALMER, near fifty years of age, a Shoemaker, then living at Mr. *Mont's*, Tobacconiſt, and now removed to Mrs. *Sango's* muffin-ſhop, both in Grafton-ſtreet, St. Ann's, Soho, was taken out of his bed in a ſituation ſo deplorable, that thoſe who accompanied him thought he had not many days longer to live, and brought to my *Diſpenſary* in a coach, at the expence of Mrs. *Millar*, now of the Cock, in the ſame Grafton-ſtreet. He had been afflicted with a *ſcurvy* for twelve years before that time, the firſt attack of which had notified itſelf by a pain in his left elbow, and had gradually ſpread and increaſed to the point of being ſo univerſally ulcerated, as to apply ſucceſſively, though in vain, to ſeveral of our public hoſpitals. He had been *ſix weeks* in St. Bartholomew's Hoſpital, under the great Surgeon POT; *one month* an out-door patient of St. George's; *ſix months* in the Weſtminſter Infirmary; and in theſe places he had been pronounced incurable. When I ſaw him, he had his face covered with holes and ulcers, as well as the inſide of his mouth; and under his chin a cavity capable to conceal one's thumb. On his right thigh he had ſuch a number of holes, as, according to his account, amounted to the number of *forty*, and ſome of which were capable to contain a pigeon's egg, that the ſight inſpired horror; he could wear no breeches, and had only a large piece of cloth to lap over, and tie with ſtrings. His oppoſite arm (the left) in which the diſorder had begun, was ſo uncommonly ulcerated, that, at firſt, he could not be prevailed upon to mention it, for fear of diſcouraging me from undertaking him: and, indeed, it was ſo bad that the very bones were eaten in; and, during the courſe of the medicamenting, worked out two ſplinters. On his breaſt there was another hole capable to admit a common hen's egg.

## THE CURE.

I GAVE him immediately the quantity of *four* of my preſent ſeven-ſhillings bottles of ANTISCORBUTIC DROPS in a large one, to take according to the directions; and, by the time he had conſumed them, he was able to ſtand upright, and to walk. I gave him then another ſimilar quantity; after the uſe of which he was able to work. And, in about *nine* months, all the capital ulcers were healed, and his face, mouth and body, though even now moſt diſfigured by frightful ſcams and ſcarifications, were already all ſound and whole. As a few more ulcers remained, here and there, on his body, he has ever ſince continued taking the DROPS, which make two years and a half from the firſt; and, at this very day, has ſtill, I confeſs, two or three little holes juſt under the ſeat in the breech. But this I aſcribe to his ſedentary life, and is undoubtedly the natural effect

of the preſſure and friction reſulting from his mode of employ; which, obliging him to ſit all the day to earn his bread, and depriving him of a proper exerciſe, draw the humours where the velocity of the circulation of the blood is more impeded by the weight of the body. A circumſtance which will, perhaps, obſtruct the cure from ever coming to a more compleat degree of perfection; though *in ſtatu quo* it may be looked upon as both an object of ſurprize to many incredulous opponents, and comfort to thoſe who are afflicted with ſo dreadful a diſorder, however deſperate be the pitch to which it may have arrived in them, ſo as not to loſe all hopes of relief, after *ſuch an example*. And, for the benefit of *ſuch*, as well as for my own perſonal credit and intereſt, I hope thoſe who will read this CASE and CURE, whether friends or foes, will not truſt to this narrative, but enquire from the patient himſelf, and all the other perſons whoſe names and directions have been heretofore mentioned in the beginning of it.

F. SPILSBURY.

N. B. Theſe DROPS are ſold in four and ſeven ſhillings new-moulded flat-ſquare bottles, ſealed with the emblem of Hope, and have the following inſcription in a wave, viz. *Fra. Spilſbury, Proprietor of the Univerſal Antiſcorbutic Drops*; they are ſealed up, with wrappers printed in red, in folio bills, ſigned *Frs. Spilſbury*, containing an account of a great number of cures, to which the number of bottles is generally added, with the author's obſervations and advice on diet, and on the Scurvy, Gout, Rheumatiſm, nervous complaints, &c. They are ſold at the following places in London:

By Mr. *Wilkie*, No. 71, St. Paul's Church Yard
Mr. *Davenhill*, No. 30, Cornhill
Mr. *Rothwell*, No. 47, New Bond-ſtreet
Mr. *Correll*, No. 6. Catherine-ſtreet, Strand
Mr. *Hall*, No. 103, Strand
Meſſrs. *Houghton* and *Valeſcure*, at the Royal Exchange.

And at the following Places in the Country.

At Bath, by Mr. *Cruttwell*
At Briſtol, by Mr. *Cocking*
At Bury, by Mrs. *Rogers*
At Cambridge, by Mr. *Fletcher*
At Cheſter, by Mr. *Pool*
At Dublin, by *James Hoey*
At Edinburgh, by *C. Elliot*
At Gloucester, by Mr. *Raikes*
At Liverpool, by Mr. *Gore*
At Newcaſtle, by *Saint* and *Slack*
At Newry, by *Stewenſon*
At Norwich, by Mr. *Crouſe*
At Oxford, by Mr. *Jackſon*
At Saliſbury, by Mr. *Johnſon*
At Sherborn, by Mr. *Goadby*
And at York, by Mr. *Teſſyman*.

And by moſt printers and bookſellers in the capital towns throughout Great Britain and Ireland.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM